

**The tale of the secret tapes**  
Gay leaders react to recorded conversations  
with then-candidate George Bush.

page 19

**EQCA's hectic February**  
From SF to Central Valley, gays  
'get engaged' for marriage rights.

page 15

**Oscar fever**  
Academy Awards  
picks and parties.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 8 • 24 February 2005

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## HIV bill would lower 'intent'

by Zak Szymanski

**A**n HIV criminalization bill with significant implications for the gay community has quietly slipped into the state Legislature's calendar among an onslaught of other bills introduced before Tuesday's deadline.

SB235 — introduced on February 15 by state Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced) — seeks to "punish and deter those who knowingly infect others with the human immunodeficiency virus," according to a statement.

The bill would lower the standard for what constitutes felony HIV transmission by removing the "specific intent" clause of existing law, allowing district attorneys to charge anyone who is HIV-positive for engaging in unprotected sexual activity without disclosing his or her status.

Under the proposed legislation, according to Denham's press secretary Nick Rappley, actually infecting a partner is not required in order for a crime to have been committed; the act of being HIV-positive while engaging in unprotected sexual activity is enough for a DA's office to take action, whether with misdemeanor or felony charges depending on the circumstances.

According to the bill, "sexual activity" means insertive vaginal or anal intercourse on the part of an infected male, receptive consensual vaginal intercourse on the part of an infected woman with a male partner, or receptive consensual anal intercourse on the part of an infected man or woman with a male partner. "Unprotected sexual activity" means sexual activity without the use of a condom.

The bill is sponsored by Stanislaus County District Attorney James C. Brazelton and was inspired by a case, according to Rappley, involving a woman who discovered her male partner was HIV-positive after the two had engaged in unprotected sex for months. Like San Francisco's Ron Hill case — where the former health commissioner was charged in 2003 with intentional transmission of HIV based upon testimony from witnesses that Hill engaged in sex with them while lying about his HIV-positive status — that case was deemed not to have met the burden of proof set by existing state law, which requires that defendants act "with specific intent" to infect others. Denham's bill would remove that requirement, and in so doing would also lessen the existing penalties, according to Stanislaus County Deputy District Attorney Nate Baker.

"Because the burden of proof would be lower, we're willing to adjust

page 9 ►



**Voting begins this Saturday for San Francisco Pride Parade community grand marshal.**

This year's nominees are, top row from left: Randy Burns, James Hormel, Alec Mapa, and Molly McKay. Bottom row from left: Juanita More, Peggy Moore, and Donna Sachet.

## Pride parade marshal nominees announced

by Zak Szymanski

**T**he nominations are in for grand marshal of the 2005 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, and as is tradition, the list includes several dedicated community activists and leaders.

Voting for grand marshal begins this Saturday, February 26 at 18th and Castro streets from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Members of the public can choose one organization to honor for its LGBT achievements; one "Pink Brick" nominee to represent homophobia in the world at large; and up to three nominees from the individual category who are all, in their own way, working to empower the lives of LGBT people

everywhere.

### Individual nominees

**Randy Burns** is the founder of Gay American Indians, an organization that formed in 1975 to serve LGBT Native Americans. A Northern Paiute Native American and a member of the Pyramid Lake Indian Tribe, his resume includes activist work for HIV/AIDS and human rights organizations and government committees, as well as volunteer work for a variety of nonprofits. He is also a writer, having penned editorials and introductions to books such as *Living The Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology*; *Changing Ones* and *Third and Fourth Genders in Native North Americans*. The openly gay Burns has received numerous awards for his

leadership. He was not reachable for comment by press time.

**James Hormel** is a longtime hero of the community. The local philanthropist has funded projects and organizations such as the gay and lesbian center (named for him) at the San Francisco Public Library and the American Civil Liberties Union. He became the first openly gay United States ambassador when he was named to the post in Luxembourg by then-President Clinton in 1999, and since then he has continued to serve the community and world at large, recently accepting a position on the board of the public affairs organization the Commonwealth Club, and plotting his next moves in terms of leadership

page 16 ►

## Little new info on HIV strain

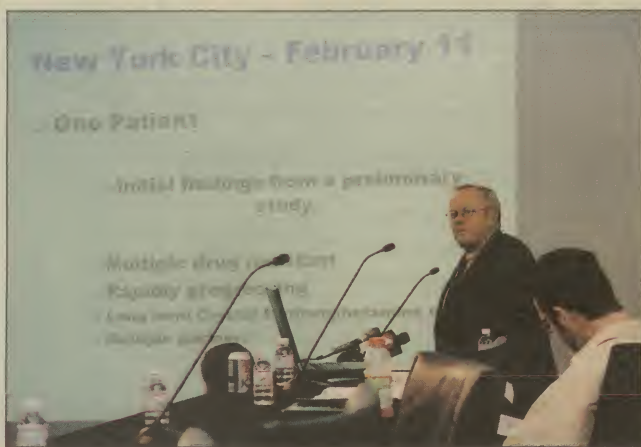
by Liz Highleyman

**L**ittle new definitive information has emerged regarding a case of multidrug-resistant, possibly rapidly progressing HIV announced two weeks ago in New York City, local experts told a packed house at a community forum at the LGBT Community Center on Tuesday, February 22.

That could potentially change today (Thursday, February 24), however, when researchers present data about the unusual case at an unprecedented last-minute special session at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections taking place this week in Boston.

Tuesday's "Wading Through the Hype" forum — sponsored by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Magnet, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the Stop AIDS Project — drew a standing-room crowd of some 150 community members, mirroring the level of interest seen at the height of

page 5 ►



HIV prevention director Steven Tierney addresses community members at Tuesday's panel.

Rick Genner

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



# Lesbian is only out candidate in Oakland race

by Matthew S. Bajko

In the nine person race to fill a vacant seat on the Oakland City Council, Peggy Moore has emerged as the sole openly gay candidate. Moore, an out lesbian of African American descent, thinks her candidacy is a first for the East Bay.

"I don't think there has been another black out woman to run, at least not here in Oakland," said Moore, 41, an organizer of last year's Out in Oakland pride event, an outreach specialist with Laverne Seniors East Bay, and a founder of Sistahs Steppin Together.

Out black politicians are rare in the Bay Area. Darryl Moore, an out black man, won a seat to Berkeley's City Council last year while San Francisco transgender and AIDS activist Veronica Cauley mounted an unsuccessful bid for city supervisor in 2000.

Moore hopes to replace Danny Wan, an out gay man born in Taiwan and the first openly gay person to serve on the Oakland council. In January Wan resigned his District 2 seat, which paid \$63,000 a year, in order to take a higher paying job as an attorney with the Port of Oakland to cover the costs of caring for his elderly parents.

Oakland is holding its first ever mail-in ballot election in order to elect a person to serve out the remainder of Wan's term, which expires in 2006. Ballots will be mailed to residents of the Lake Merritt and Chinatown neighborhoods between April 18 and May 7 and must be returned by 8 p.m. on election day, which is May 17.

The district is home to many LGBT residents as well as Asians and African Americans. Moore is highlighting her diverse background as one way to distinguish herself from the other candidates and readily concedes her being the only gay candidate could give her a leg up.

"We have a very large community here. It works to my advantage," said Moore, who will open her headquarters at 3712 Lakeshore Avenue this Saturday at 10:30 a.m. "For the individuals in this community we resonate from the same place."

However, she also knows that her campaign is not the only one to target the LGBT community.

"I think all the candidates are trying to get gays and lesbians to look at their campaigns," said Moore, who has been endorsed by out lesbian Rebecca Kaplan, an AC Transit board member. "My plan is to touch base with as many people as I possibly can."

Green Party member Aimee Allison, also African American, is al-



Green candidate Aimee Allison

ready seeking endorsements from gay rights groups, as well as unions, women's organizations and housing activists. Allison, 35, lives with her husband Aaron Baluyot and seven-year-old son Isaiah in the Lakeshore area. A former Army Reserve medic, she made national news in 1991 when she spoke out against the Persian Gulf War and received an honorable discharge as a conscientious objector.

"Given the special nature of this election, I believe we can win because we have strong grassroots support. Our message is one of affordable housing, decent schools and safe communities for all Oakland's diverse families," Allison said of her campaign.

Another candidate with ties to the gay community is Pat Kernighan, former chief of staff to Wan who helped him push several LGBT initiatives, including forming a gay district near Lake Merritt, forming a gay leader roundtable and passing domestic partner legislation. Kernighan, 55, is backed not only by Wan but Council President Ignacio De La Fuente and Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown. Married with kids, she has lived in the district for 22 years.

Three other candidates said to be top contenders in the race are David Kakishiba, 45, the longtime executive director of the East Bay Asian Youth Center and an Oakland School Board member since 2002; Pamela Drake, 58, who runs the Lakeshore Business Improvement District, works for Councilwoman Desley Brooks and is endorsed by former Councilwoman Mary Moore, who represented the district for 16 years until 1994, current Councilmember Larry Reid and Alameda County School Board Member Dennis Chaconas; and Justin Horner, 32, who is endorsed by Vice Mayor Jane Brunner (North Oakland), whom he works for as chief of staff, and Councilmember Nancy Nadel (Downtown-West Oakland).



Candidate Peggy Moore

Others in the race are Shirley Gee, 58, was pushed the city to include Oakland's main Asian neighborhoods in the district and organized the dragon boat races on Lake Merritt in the 1990s; Paul Garrison, 41, a vice president for Wells Fargo and a board member of the Oakland East Bay Symphony. A single man, Garrison has served on the city's Public Ethics Commission, Cultural Arts Commission and as president of his neighborhood association in Haddon Hill northeast of Lake Merritt; and Todd Plate, 35, a one-year resident of Oakland who helped organize last year's campaign to pass a parcel tax in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

The League of Women Voters is cosponsoring two candidate forums, the first to take place from 7 to 9 p.m. this Friday, February 28 at the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church and the second March 4th at City Hall. ▼



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## Another grrreat bear rendezvous



New titleholders celebrate on stage Sunday, February 20 at the International Bear Rendezvous. From left, International Mr. Bear Harvey Mallory, Grizzly Bear David Nigro, Daddy Bear Misha Kitain (being bussed by Lurch, the emcee), and Mr. Bear Cub Manny Diaz. The contest was one of the final activities of IBR, which attracted over 800 men for a long weekend of tours, hospitality, cruising, beer benefits, and award programs.

## Grocery store gives grant to BCEF

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The Safeway Foundation announced February 15 a donation of \$20,000 to the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund in San Francisco. BCEF, a sister agency of the city's long-running AIDS Emergency Fund, provides emergency financial assistance to low-income people living with the disease.

"One of Safeway's major initiatives is to raise funds for breast cancer programs and awareness," said Jennifer Webber, public affairs director for Safeway's Northern California Division. "We are pleased to be supporting the important work of the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund as part of those efforts."

The grant is the second one from Safeway to BCEF; the foundation recognized BCEF's work in October 2003 with a similar \$20,000 grant. Safeway raises most of its funds in its annual breast cancer campaign through tear-off donation cards completed by customers at its checkstands. Shoppers are also given an opportunity to add a donation as they pay for their groceries.

"Since 2001, BCEF has helped relieve the emotional and financial toll of unpaid bills for over 300 low-income, uninsured women battling breast cancer," said Executive Director Mike

Smith. "With this generous donation, we hope to be able to help even more women."

### Lesbians named to commissions

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom announced last week another round of appointments to city commissions, with out lesbians serving on two panels.

Noted author and poet Jewelle Gomez was named to the Library Commission. Gomez is the program director for cultural equity grants at the San Francisco Arts Commission. She has a long history of public service and was formerly the director of the literature program for the New York State Council of the Arts, as well as the executive director

of the American Poetry Archives at San Francisco State University. Currently, Gomez serves on the national advisory board of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. She and her partner, Diane Sabin, are one of the plaintiff couples suing the state over its marriage laws.

Newsom reappointed Andrea Shorter to serve on the Commission on the Status of Women. Shorter, a former trustee of the San Francisco Community College District, is the deputy director of the Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice. She is the co-author of *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Plight of Adolescent Girls in San Francisco's Juvenile Justice System*, a

widely referenced report concerning gender-specific challenges and needs in the justice system.

### Gay men's forum Friday

The San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative will host a public forum Friday, February 25 about risk-taking among gay men. The free event takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in the fourth floor ceremonial room.

### Volunteers sought for civil grand jury

The San Francisco Superior Court is now accepting applications for volunteer service on the 2005-2006 civil grand jury.

Presiding Judge Robert L. Dondero said that the function of the civil grand jury is to investigate the operations of the various officers, departments, and agencies of county government and to report its findings and recommendations to the presiding judge of the Superior Court and to the subjects of its investigations.

Members of the civil grand jury are afforded a unique opportunity to examine and investigate county government; only 19 San Franciscans are selected to serve.

For more information and an application, visit or write the grand jury office at the Civic Center Courthouse, 400 McAllister Street, Room 008, San Francisco, CA 94102 or call (415) 551-3605. Business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The application deadline is Monday, April 11. ▼



### News Briefs



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# Redesigned crystal Web site debuts

by Matthew S. Bajko

Eight years ago the tweak-er.org Web site debuted. It began out of the work of the Stop AIDS Project in the late 1990s when the agency first began tackling speed use in the gay community. After its initial launch in 1997, the site went dark until 2001 when the Stonewall Project got financial backing to create a peer educator-based outreach program.

In June 2002, with help of a project team led by Matthew Denckla, the site was relaunched, ruled over by the cartoon character Speed Demon, a devilishly good-looking depiction of how gay and bi men see themselves while using methamphetamine or crystal.

As it has grown in popularity, the site's technical limitations hampered its usefulness. Four months ago the site's creators began updating and retooling it to better serve the estimated 1,500 people a day who log on.

The new look and features went live Sunday, February 13, just as a wave of press reports began detailing how a New York City man who reportedly used speed and engaged in unsafe sex with hundreds of partners appeared to have a new strain of HIV that progresses to AIDS in a matter of months and does not respond to current AIDS drugs.

Coincidentally, the revamped site includes a new, separate section entitled "Crystal and Sex" and includes a list of options for additional information on HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and how to get tested. Another feature given more prominence on the new site is Speed Demon's counterpart, Sweaty Man.

Instead of the idealized muscled vision of Speed Demon, Sweaty Man depicts how crystal users really are when on the drug, and thus tweaks or twitches on the screen as beads of sweat fall from his forehead. Visitors to the site can scroll their mouse over words of body parts next to Sweaty Guy which reveal how crystal impacts each one.

"Sweaty Guy was resurrected. Speed Demon is who you want to be and how you feel when using crystal. Sweaty Guy is how you really are, kind of sweaty and not looking too great," said Natasha Curry, who helped oversee the site's redesign.

Curry is a counselor with the Stonewall Project, a harm reduction agency for gay and bi men who use crystal. Tweaker.org is funded by the HIV prevention section of the AIDS office of the city's Department of Public Health and community donations. As the site grew, its architecture wasn't set up for the content being added, said Curry.

"There were tons of stuff on the site and people couldn't find it," she said. "Everything ideally should be only one or two clicks away from the home page. Some of this stuff was out there in the Siberia of cyberspace. We couldn't even find it."

Along with making the site's content easier to access, Curry said the agency bolstered the site's forum and added better search capabilities. While she said it is hard to tell if it's due to the redesign or the national attention being given to how crystal use impacts the spread of HIV, Curry said the site has seen a spike in use this month.

During the week of February 6, the site had 6,500 page views. During the week of February 13,

the site had 29,000 page views.

"It is hard to know how much of that is from people being curious about the new site," she said.

Tweaker.org has been championed by those who believe in a harm reduction approach to drug use. To critics, the site merely glamorizes drug use and turns a deadly habit into a fun pastime, but others welcome its straightforward discussion of crystal. Since the redesign went live, Curry said the agency has received numerous e-mails praising tweaker.org's approach.

"As a licensed master social worker, I recognize the undeniable need for straight talk about drugs and alcohol, especially with the HIV crisis we face. Your site provided this factual discussion without judgment, and you know where judgementalness will get you when trying to work with people," wrote one person from Fort Worth, Texas.

"I love the site. It gives lots and lots of information without resorting to moralism," said one gay man from Columbus, Ohio. A woman from Los Angeles wrote, "Thanks for the info. It helped me to understand what my husband is in to. Sad to say, I want to help so I printed out some of your stuff for him. Thanks again for the info and keeping it real."

While the ultimate goal is abstinence, the creators of the site also acknowledge the reality that drug use is a part of gay culture and therefore gay and bi men should be given information to better educate themselves on the consequences of such behavior.

"Ultimately, the aim is abstinence. But we recognize people do drugs and say if you are going to do it, hey take care of yourself and other people," said Curry. ▽

## HIV strain

◀ page 1

the city's epidemic.

"The community has a right to any information we have," said Steven Tierney, director of HIV prevention for the health department. "We are committed to bringing it to you, but not information we can't verify yet. I don't think doing prevention by scaring people is a good idea."

Most experts remain unconvinced that the New York City case represents a turn for the worse in the epidemic.

"This is a nonstory," Dr. Paul Volberding, director of the Center for AIDS Research at the University of California, San Francisco told the *New York Times* earlier this week. "There have been many cases of rapid progression. The New York case is only that, a case report."

Likewise, drug resistance comes as no surprise. In 2001, Sally Blower from the University of California, Los Angeles and colleagues reported data from a mathematical model predicting that 42 percent of all prevalent HIV cases (including treated individuals) and 16 percent of newly transmitted HIV cases in San Francisco would be resistant to at least one antiretroviral drug by 2005. These predictions "have been proven correct," Blower told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The New York case is not the least bit sur-

prising. It is an expected evolution." But, she added, "the chance that this multidrug-resistant HIV will spread is low."

Since the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's announcement on February 11, no similar cases of trans-

mission of highly drug resistant, dual-tropic HIV have come to light.

Reports that a similar virus had been detected in a blood sample from a San Diego man are inaccurate, according to Dr. Nancy

page 20 ►



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## BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 35, Number 8  
24 February 2005

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## OPEN FORUM

## Patty and 'Veronica'

The long-running and wildly popular Fox television program *The Simpsons* made minor television history Sunday, February 20 with its episode about same-sex marriage. While most of the half-hour show was humorous (especially the sight of gay couples flocking to the fictional Springfield to tie the knot after the mayor decreed such unions were legal to generate tourist dollars), overall the show fell flat and veered into murky territory with an anti-transgender message.

As those who watched the show know, it was Marge Simpson's sister Patty who came out as a lesbian, and wanted to marry Veronica, a pro golfer on the LPGA circuit. While Marge initially hemmed and hawed about actually having to accept a gay family member (she had no trouble supporting Homer's decision to become an ordained minister so that he could marry the couples after the local minister refused), she came around and expressed her continued love for Patty.

It turns out, however, that Veronica was really a man, who disguised himself to play in the LPGA. And it was how that twist was revealed that troubles us.

First, Marge spies on Veronica in the bathroom, leaving the toilet seat up (a "tell-tale" sign). Then, Veronica is shown having "big hands" and shaving. The clincher – revealed at the wedding, no less – was when Veronica's "large Adam's apple" was exposed. Once again, the "deception" strategy is used. That was the defense argument in the first Gwen Araujo murder trial last year, and that's what transgender people constantly face from others. While Veronica did not identify as transgender, the show's writers exhibited a lack of creativity in the episode, which ultimately devolved into nonsense. Patty and Veronica did not get married, and it's unclear whether Patty will continue to be portrayed as an out dyke in future episodes. We do acknowledge, however, that *The Simpsons* is an animated show, and that as such, certain liberties are often taken with that genre. While the program has been on the air since 1989, for example, Bart Simpson is still 10 years old, so that

context is important.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation quickly issued a statement Monday praising the episode, and virtually ignoring the Veronica plot line. "When Marge learns that Patty's about to marry someone who isn't really a lesbian, she comes to realize that what her sister really deserves is to be in love with and married to a person who's right for her. If millions of *Simpsons* viewers came away from last night's episode with that little bit of moral truth, it was time well spent," Executive Director Joan Garry stated.

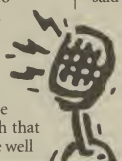
Well, okay, but how about at least acknowledging the problems with the program? Millions of viewers could have also come away from the show with a skewed sense of transgender people.

So we spoke with GLAAD media director Glennnda Testone, who told us that the initial

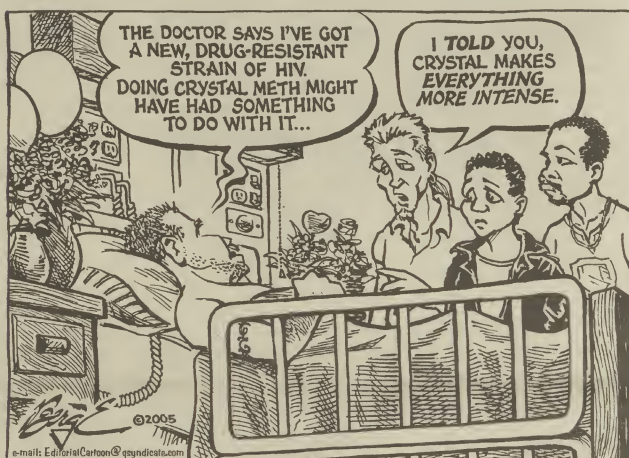
statement was mainly released to get the word out about what *The Simpsons* "got right." But she also told us that yes, GLAAD was not terribly impressed with the Veronica plot line, which she called "clichéd." And she said that GLAAD is attempting to reach out to those involved with the series to talk about that aspect of the show. "The representation [of Veronica] was unworthy of *The Simpsons* but it didn't seem to be the headline," Testone said.

One other note about the program; we're in full agreement with GLAAD that Fox's decision to slap an idiotic parental advisory warning on the episode was unwarranted. As Garry said, it "demonstrated an almost laughable ignorance on the part of Fox executives about the audience for the show."

In the future, it would be better if television programs dealing with same-sex marriage were more accurate – even if it's a cartoon show. ▼



## Editorial



## A wake-up call on HIV

by Robert J. McMullin  
and Jason Riggs

Whether the recent announcement of a possible new virulent strain of HIV is an isolated incident or the dawn of a new age of AIDS, it is a wake-up call. The possibility of a new more lethal strain of HIV in the gay community calls each of us – our communities and our federal government – to rededicate ourselves to HIV prevention and safer sex. Moreover, this case makes it even clearer that we must address the epidemic of crystal meth use among gay and bisexual men.

The strain of HIV was detected in a man living in New York City who may not be so different from many of us: a sexually active gay man in his 40s who uses drugs. Despite what has been reported, multi-drug resistant strains of HIV are not new. Neither is rapid progression from HIV infection to clinical AIDS diagnosis. In addition, it is not yet clear whether the disease progressed rapidly because the virus was particularly strong or because the man was particularly weak due to reported crystal use, his own genetics, or because his body is still reacting to a recent infection.

However, the case in New York reminds us of the very real possibility of a new virulent strain of HIV emerging among us. What happens in New York is not so far from San Francisco. It also demonstrates, once again, that crystal meth use not only contributes to new HIV infections but also fosters sexual environments that facilitate the emergence of new strains of HIV and other STDs.

Surveys conducted by the Stop AIDS Project indicate that 20 percent of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco have used crystal in the last six months. Men using

crystal report lower sexual inhibitions leading to high-risk sex with multiple partners. While crystal use does not cause HIV, it is highly correlated with new HIV infections. A gay or bisexual man using crystal is 300 percent to 400 percent more likely to get HIV than gay or bisexual men who don't. Those using crystal are also twice as likely to have an STD such as syphilis and gonorrhea. This isn't just happening to addicts; it is happening to casual users too; people we count as our friends, co-workers, roommates, and boyfriends.

At the beginning of the AIDS epidemic our community rose up to care for each other and ourselves. We did this out of fear, a sense of responsibility, and out of a commitment to one another. Addressing the abuse of crystal meth should be no different.

The majority of gay and bisexual men are succeeding in protecting others and ourselves from HIV. However, there are some men, like the one in New York, who regularly have unprotected sex with multiple partners.

It is impossible to live in a constant state of crisis about HIV, nor is it advisable for the well-being of individuals or an entire community. However, in our quest to find a "new normal" some of us have adopted a norm that accepts and even encourages high levels of risk. The situation in New York is a wake-up call that we must answer by rededicating ourselves to safer sex and the cause of moving HIV prevention and gay men's health forward.

In partnership with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the Stop AIDS Project is dedicated to cutting new HIV infections in half. We are fully engaged in addressing casual crystal use in the gay

community and work with thousands of men every month to reduce the spread of HIV. However, it is difficult to see a future free of disease and full of health without all parts of the gay community engaged.

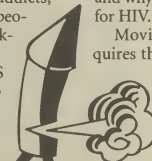
Moving gay men's health forward means having difficult conversations and taking difficult actions. It means being honest with ourselves and with each other about when and why we put ourselves, or others, at risk for HIV.

Moving gay men's health forward requires that all artists, community leaders, bars, club promoters, Internet hook-up sites, organizations, and individuals that make up the gay community take leadership in a reinvigorated effort to prevent the spread of HIV. Many businesses in the community have stepped up to the plate, yet many more have yet to see HIV prevention and addressing crystal use as part of their responsibility.

Moving gay men's health forward is about summoning up our individual and collective courage and commitment to actively build the kind of community that we all long for and deserve.

Each of us has a role to play in caring confronting one another to help stop the intertwined epidemics of HIV and crystal abuse. What is yours? ▼

Robert J. McMullin is the executive director of the Stop AIDS Project and Jason Riggs is the communications director. Join more than 250 volunteers at Stop AIDS in preventing the spread of HIV and addressing crystal use at [www.stopaids.org](http://www.stopaids.org), (415) 575-0747, or [mcollins@stopaids.org](mailto:mcollins@stopaids.org).



## Guest Opinion

## LETTERS

## Column overlooked dispute

In its February 17 issue, the *Bay Area Reporter* condemns the Jim Crow-era practices to which African Americans were subjected in the Castro some 30 years ago: "Many transplants to the Castro in the old days were Dixie types from the South who brought their negative feelings towards blacks with them. In the old Castro, black gay men would sometimes have to wait far beyond the expected length of time for a bartender to fill their order. Multiple IDs would often be required at the door."

Yet, the column ["*Pendulum swings with hip hop*," *In the Bars*] makes no mention of the fact that Les Natali, the owner of Badlands and the Detour, is right now – in the "new" Castro – under investigation by the city and state for engaging in these same, "prejudice"-fueled, "Dixie-type," Jim Crow-era practices. According to sworn testimony from former Badlands employees, Natali instructed bouncers to request multiple forms of photo ID from African Americans and other people of color, in violation of civil rights laws. Likewise, according to sworn testimony from patrons and witnesses, Natali routinely evicted African Americans without cause, telling them: "You aren't welcome here" or "your kind isn't welcome here." In fact, police responding to a complaint from witnesses to the eviction of an African American woman are said to have asked her, "Let me guess: wrong color or wrong gender?" and told Natali: "You should be utterly ashamed."

Nor does the February 17 Arts and Entertainment article bother to mention the ultimate irony: that the very same bar owner who allegedly, based on the columnists' assessment, behaves like a "Dixie type from the South," recently became a silent owner of the Pendulum, described in the piece as "a haven in ... a sea of indifference and hostility in the Castro."

If the outrageous practices of yore are worthy of such strong comments, then present-day reports that these practices continue – as well as reports that an alleged "Dixie type" in the Castro's "haven" for people of color – should elicit far more concern and outrage. They also merit a line or two of newsprint.

John Newsome  
And Castro for All  
San Francisco

## Bar column neglected charges

I was incredibly surprised to read your recent article in the arts section that described the Pendulum as a haven for black men of color. I strongly suggest that the writers of the arts section read the articles in the news section of the *Bay Area Reporter*. If they did read their own paper, they would realize that there have been monthly articles about ongoing discrimination in the Castro and that gay men of color have been organizing for the past year against the new owner of the Pendulum because of racial discrimination.

Robert Haaland  
San Francisco

## 'Clueless'

The story about the Pendulum bar in the most recent *B.A.R.* is laughably bizarre and unforgivably clueless. It seems that neither the writers Mr. Sher and Mr. des Jardins nor your entertainment editor Mr. Friedman read the paper that employs them. Nor, I guess, do they watch the television news or read the *San Francisco Chronicle* with any degree of diligence.

If they were on top of any of these news sources, they would know that it is not just "the old Castro" that kept men of color out of bars by requiring multiple IDs as the article mentioned. This discriminatory and illegal practice of asking for multiple photo IDs was common and used to discriminate against African Americans and other minority individuals as recently as last summer, at Les Natali's SF Badlands (please direct them to your own paper's June 17, 2004 issue for the beginning of ongoing coverage of this problem). If they kept up with current events, they would also know that Mr. Natali now owns the Pendulum, the "haven" for African Americans. And, finally, if they paid attention to what they were writing, they would know that for about eight months now, Mr. Natali has been under investigation by both local and state agencies, on charges of racial discrimination. These investigations are based on sworn testimony from both former employees and would-be patrons of SF Badlands, over 20 people in all. The "old Castro" that your writer and editor seem to think is a thing of the past, is alive and well in the form of Les Natali.

Hunter Gatewood  
San Francisco

[Arts editor Roberto Friedman responds: In their column, "*Pendulum swings with hip hop*," *In the Bars* columnists Mike Sher and Mark des Jardins met their assigned task, which was to visit the bar, and talk with

the patrons, bartenders, manager, and owner. We stand by their report.

The piece should have referenced the B.A.R.'s own news reporting regarding the controversy over the bar's ownership changes. The column was focused on the bar's history in the Castro for over 30 years as a haven for gay men of color and their friends.]

## More brickbats for column

Your "In the Bars" column is as necessary as tits on a boar.

It's no big mystery who bars cater to, and it's not the Boy Scouts. They cater to alcoholics and are in the business of creating new alcoholics.

Bar owners have changed the approach but the end result is still the same. Drink and get drunk. I haven't seen a "free buffet" in a saloon for a while, one where everything was made of two-thirds salt to dehydrate you so you'd drink more. I have seen all kinds of "contests" and "fund-raisers" put on in saloons that centered on drinking.

The Castro bars have the same type of vibe, music so loud that it disorients you when you come in and then convinces you that you aren't drunk later because you can still hear it.

How about a column called "In the Shooting Gallery" so you can glorify IV drug users?

Kevin Keane  
San Francisco

## Meth story dissed AA

While I applaud any effort to disseminate information on newly available meth treatment programs, I take issue with the fact that it seems to have been done at the expense of another ["*Crystal meth users turn to experimental project to kick the habit*," February 17].

Alcoholics Anonymous' stated policy regarding anonymity is "at the level of press, radio and film." This stance was carefully chosen many decades ago to avoid the very real danger that someone might hear a story of "the program" not working, and decide that it will not or cannot work for them as well.

Unfortunately, it may have been the one person who will read this article about the experimental project, get the notion that AA does not work, and then proceed to use. I am well aware that it is not your task to promote AA either. Its policy is attraction rather than promotion.

It seems that careful editing could have included the fact that this young man had tried other methods of treatment that did not work for him, without trashing what has worked for so many. He, by the way, has his facts wrong about people getting applause for completing a step, but I digress.

I am a health care practitioner in the city, and we are at war with crystal meth. Seroinjection rates are skyrocketing among men who have remained negative for over two decades, and are now becoming positive as a result of their use of crystal and participation in unsafe sex. I need all the help I can get trying to curtail this epidemic, and I request that you be more careful in your reporting to avoid inadvertently giving anyone another excuse to continue using. Our community, especially, is being decimated by this drug. I thank you for your reporting on the topic and ask that you keep in mind that one person who might just go to a meeting and get clean when you write in the future about meth use.

Kim Grubbs  
San Francisco

## AIDS and gay men

I cannot believe John Viletto's letter, "Emerging AIDS crisis," was written by a responsible member of the gay community [*Mailstrom*, February 17]. However, I commend him in stirring me to speak after years of silence. I am one of those he mentions who witnessed the horrors of the early epidemic that he claims are now "too old to get out and swing very much."

As a pioneer in AIDS awareness, I passed my own torch for AIDS enlightenment to others many years ago. A reason for this was that I had grown both weary and heartbroken in the battle against AIDS, which had taken so many friends, lovers, and colleagues. Another reason was that I had become disheartened over the politics and personal agendas that infiltrated the organizations that had pledged themselves to defeat AIDS.

In 1984, I created Los Angeles County's first AIDS awareness campaign, which, subsequently, became the first national AIDS awareness campaign. It was I who coined the expression, "Play Safely," in this landmark campaign, which quickly influenced the approach to AIDS awareness across America.

I present my credentials by way of correcting John in both some of his AIDS facts, and in his false perception about the most effective AIDS defense – the likes of which I also had to confront over 20 years ago.

next page ►

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# Crying shame

by Paula Martinac

In a recent development in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, two independent research teams recommended that all Americans – not just those who've been deemed "high risk," like gay men and IV drug users – be tested for the virus. Clearly, this is good news. The recommendations are meant to finally make HIV testing as routine and devoid of stigma as a Pap test, mammogram, or blood pressure screening.

But could a change implemented in the third decade of the pandemic really be effective, given the shame still attached to HIV/AIDS and to homosexuality? Unless a public health policy shift goes hand in hand with reality-based sex education, I think it would stand little chance of making a difference over time.

Part of the problem stems from the fact that HIV is still being tied to identity rather than behavior, although the connection is more subtle than in the past. For example, all the news reports about the new medical studies cited people in "monogamous heterosexual relationships" as among the lowest-risk groups for HIV, who might opt out of the test altogether or possibly just have it once.

At about the same time, another report also hit the news – that a new drug-resistant strain of HIV has appeared in New York City in a gay man who used crystal meth and, according to the *New York Times*, had "unprotected sex with hundreds of partners." This harkens back to the early 1980s, re-establishing the connection between HIV and homosexuality and conjuring up memories of that original "bad" gay man, Patient Zero, who was blamed for bringing HIV to the United States.

The danger in continuing to talk about risk categories is that many people who don't use drugs or have sex with "hundreds of partners" will erroneously view HIV as of no concern to them. Consider that heterosexual women of color actually accounted for 85 percent of new AIDS in-

fections in 2003. Sex with HIV-positive men is the primary means by which straight women become infected, and many of these women firmly believe they're in monogamous relationships.

As one AIDS researcher told *HIV Plus* magazine, "There is a whole set of women who don't have a clue that their male partners have outside relationships." And there are other women who may indeed be in monogamous heterosexual relationships – but with men who previously had unsafe sex with other men.

The continuing stigma attached to homosexuality and bisexuality is largely to blame for this explosion of HIV among those who mistakenly thought they were safe from the disease. Many men "on the down low" put their unknowing female partners at risk because admitting they

like to have sex with men would be viewed as disgraceful, unmanly, or even sinful.

Compounding the problem is our public education system, which, like much public health policy, evades the complexities of human sexuality and psychology. While it reduces money for AIDS programs, the federal government increases funding for "abstinence-only" sex education, despite a lack of evidence that these programs work. Indeed, a report from U.S. Representative Henry Waxman (D-California) showed some abstinence-only programs providing false information that put kids at risk for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. And a recent study in the president's home state found that abstinence-only education had not prevented students there from becoming progressively more sexually active.

The result is a classic Catch-22. The best way to erode the stigma of HIV would be to start in the schools with accurate sex education aimed at helping all kids ac-



Christine Smith

quire knowledge about behavior that would keep them safe. But schools have their hands tied by a federal government committed to the idea that promoting one kind of identity – being heterosexual and married – is the panacea for all of society's problems.

Sadly, that approach is based on the reality of only a small number of people. In fact, kids are human, and most humans – even the deeply religious – want to have sex, especially when their hormones are raging. And as Shelby Knox, a young Christian sex-education activist whose story will be told on an episode of PBS's *POV* series this June, puts it, "If [kids] are going to have sex, they need to know the consequences. And they need to know how to protect themselves."

One step we can all take is to lobby our representatives in Washington to pass the Responsible Education About Life Act (REAL), which would create a grant program for states to offer broader sex education programs that include information about contraceptives and safer sex. Such a bill faces an uphill struggle in the current climate of fear and repression. But without an attempt to address this serious education shortfall, HIV, one of our greatest public-health challenges, will continue to spread as "someone else's disease." ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

## Mailstrom

◀ page 7

First, allow me correct Viletto's take on AIDS history: San Francisco, after New York, and Los Angeles after San Francisco, did not take "immediate action" against the epidemic by instantly shutting their bathhouses and distributing AIDS literature. Actually, the gay community was slow to take up arms against AIDS in each of the metropolitan cities. Bathhouse owners, and those who frequented them, were quite resistant to closing. Gay bathhouses were mostly owned by gay businessmen who refused to give up important revenue, and their patrons resented losing their safest means of clandestine sex. Back then, "safe sex" meant sex you could have without being busted by police.

In addition, many business establishments, gay and otherwise, were highly reluctant to provide safe sex literature in the early stages of the disease or to allow

such information to be distributed to their patrons. These businesses owners thought to do so was a reflection on their establishments and their clientele.

You see, in those early years, even gay people thought AIDS was primarily a disease for hustlers and IV drug users. Few gay people were educated, and many more were simply stubborn. They did not want to be told they couldn't have sex whenever, however, and with whomever they wanted. If you want to commend those who rose to the challenge early on – thank your lesbian sisters. They were passing out AIDS literature and condoms before most gay men knew what the acronym stood for.

It was only a fluke that I had joined a West Los Angeles public relations company shortly before we were hired by Los Angeles County and the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center to launch a countywide AIDS awareness campaign. After examining numerous AIDS education mate-

rials focused on reproving the perpetrator, and the dismal reaction by the public to this approach, I designed our campaign to emphasize individual responsibility. In other words, AIDS prevention begins and ends with each of us.

While it is unconscionable for people with HIV to intentionally expose their partners, it is equally unconscionable to solely indict the perpetrator. Responsibility must ultimately, if not equally, rest with the individual who allows him or herself to be exposed.

The path to criminalizing AIDS infection and those who do the infecting, knowingly or otherwise, is fraught with danger far greater than the disease itself. Such legislation threatens our liberties, our right to privacy, most importantly, our right to take responsibility for our own actions. Such a path inevitably leads to pink triangles and concentration camps.

Tyler St. Mark, Producer  
 Wildcat International  
 Beverly Hills, California

# Dean's the man at DNC

by Carole Migden

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the second in a series of such columns.

A recent mid-week trip to chilly Washington, D.C. was very much worthwhile, to witness Governor **Howard Dean's** coronation as the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee. I've made no secret of my great admiration and affection for the former Vermont governor, the original "freedom to marry" leader. It seems that the rank and file members finally tired of the cold mashed potatoes being served by national Democratic leaders. Old guard Democrats **Nancy Pelosi** and **Harry Reid** shuddered as Dean took the mantle as the party's top dog. New Mexico Governor **Bill Richardson** tried to woo the delegation with weight loss and weightless remarks ... seems he's shaping up to be on the short list for VP in 2008.

Speaking of freedom to marry, in my home state of New York, NYC Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** has given his public support for us to marry while simultaneously appealing a New York court decision that grants us this right. I don't get it: Mayor Mike, this is how you show your support?! If the United States had that kind of backing from allies in WWII, we would all be speaking German right now ... I'll take Mayor Gav any day of the week.

Our talented city attorney, **Dennis Herrera**, who has been



State Senator Carole Migden

praised in the *New York Times* for his articulate and brilliant work on the marriage issue, is up for reelection this November. His remarkable record of accomplishment is matched only by his innate ability to navigate through the complex and often-treacherous legalities to best represent the city. I am proud to count on him as a friend and I am even prouder to be represented by him. His one weakness ... besides chocolate éclairs? He won't admit it, but my partner **Cris Arguedas** outrives him on the golf course. There is no doubt in my mind that Herrera will be easily re-elected.

Assembly Speaker **Fabian Nunez** (D-Los Angeles) and I are taking the lead on new legislation that will remove "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" for the California division of the National Guard ... only bears need apply. Talking gays in the military, many feel that current policies compromise intelligence gathering; apparently only gay soldiers speak Farsi - what's up with

that?

Did you see the Grammys? A bald **Melissa Etheridge** belting out an old Janis Joplin ditty while battling with breast cancer - truly inspiring. Then we have **Rosie O'Donnell** standing up for foster kids. These are times where we need to get on board with celebrity activism ... so I am going to launch the **Brad Pitt** for Governor in '06 recruitment. We need to fight fire with fire, and I hear it is true that Mr. Pitt has been converted by **Angelina Jolie**. Plus I know Mr. Pitt would garner some votes with this paper's readership.

Our own celebrity governor was in D.C. too, trying to get California more federal dollars. We hope **Arnold Schwarzenegger** can bring something back other than T-shirts - after all he went to Ohio to get Bush re-elected. Can he get some respect in the morning?

All my fellow legislators we know are stitches ... but none can sew a stitch, which leads to the new preoccupation with knitting. I think we are all just getting our applications together for **Martha Stewart's** new reality show.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge my old friend **Wayne Friday** who had inhabited this space for over two decades. His sharp wit and precise analysis will be sorely missed. Wayne's column was that first thing I read on Thursday mornings ... I wish for him nothing but good times in his retirement. So Wayne, how was your week? ▼

State Senator Carole Migden represents portions of San Francisco and Marin counties. Bill Barnes contributed to this column.

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## HIV bill

◀ page 1

the sentencing so that it reflects that standard," said Baker, explaining that existing law around criminal HIV transmission, which was passed in 1998, allows up to eight years in prison, while Denham's bill would reduce the maximum to three years, and in some instances allows for a misdemeanor if the conduct is not as egregious. Actual transmission of the virus, however, could carry an additional three years of sentencing under a separate section of the penal code.

Many in the LGBT community, of course, worry about lessening the standards for criminal HIV transmission, both for ethical as well as practical reasons.

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who chairs the Assembly's Public Safety Committee, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that it is his job to ensure that every bill gets a fair hearing, and as such, he cannot take a definitive position on Denham's bill.

However, Leno did express concern over the fact that the bill "would make a negligent act - as opposed to a malicious or intentional act - a felony."

And Leno also noted that punitive HIV measures often have the unintended consequence of people opting not to learn their HIV status.

"Might it give someone yet another reason not to do what we encourage everyone to do, which is to get tested for HIV and know their status?" said Leno, adding that such a bill may also affect the community standard of shared responsibility when engaging in sex.

"Certainly for those of us who have been involved with the epidemic all of these years, the best advice for all of us is to proceed as if your partner is positive," said Leno.

Rappley acknowledged that the bill only affects people who know they have HIV, rather than those who suspect they are positive or have not been tested. But he did not agree that the bill would affect HIV testing.

"This bill specifically deals with those who have knowledge that they have HIV and have not disclosed that they have HIV to their partner," said Rappley. "But it is in one's best interest to find out his or her HIV status, and in one's partner's best interest. This measure is in no way meant to discourage anyone from seeking testing; it's simply meant to make sure there are not innocent victims out there as a result of someone's nondisclosure of HIV status."

Regardless, there are a host of questions that will arise during criminal prosecution of such cases. Under current law, medical records can be subpoenaed in criminal prosecutions involving HIV transmission, but other factors - such as whether a condom was worn, or whether a partner disclosed his or her status, may be more subjective.

"One concern for the gay community is that lowering the standard for an HIV transmission crime can open a Pandora's box of charges between disgruntled lovers," said Bart Broome, an openly gay legislative assistant to Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood).

Baker acknowledged that each case would have to be looked at individually to determine the merits, and DA's offices would fac-

tor in things like corroboration of victim statements, the length of the relationship, the status of the relationship, and the timing of the filed complaint.

At the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, policy director Dana Van Gorder expressed another concern with SB235 - that punishing HIV-positive people who don't have protected sex does not stop the possibility of future HIV transmission.

"I don't think any of us would argue that it isn't a serious matter to have HIV and engage in unprotected sex, and I think the vast majority of people with HIV take great care not to do that. But for people having major issues with engaging safely, we believe it is better for them to go through counseling rather than to be put in jail. All that really accomplishes is to transfer the problem to jail."

Van Gorder expressed concern over potential support for the bill, particularly in light of last week's announcement that a new strain of drug-resistant HIV may have been identified in New York City. But he also expressed hope that officials would remember and honor the long process involved with drafting and passing the existing HIV transmission law.

"I am confident that we can probably deal with this bill in as much as the law that exists now reflects lengthy discussions and an eventual compromise with the Davis administration," said Van Gorder, referring to the former governor. "Hopefully we can persuade Governor Schwarzenegger - whose support on this obviously would be crucial - that we should honor the compromise that was reached in 1998." ▼

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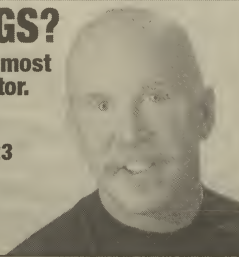
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Jim Hedges

# Who is Jose Sarria?

by Liz Highleyman

Although less well-known than many gay pioneers, Jose Sarria (aka the Widow Norton) made his mark on history as the first openly gay man to run for public office and the founder of the Imperial Court System.

Sarria was born in 1922 or 1923 to an unwed mother of Columbian descent. He was raised in San Francisco, partly by his godparents and partly in the home of a family that employed his mother as a domestic. His mother and godmother indulged his early cross-dressing, and when he was older, mother and son sometimes dressed up and went out on the town together.

Despite identifying as gay from an early age, Sarria enlisted in the army during World War II, working as an officer's aide and running an officers' mess hall in Berlin. After leaving the army around 1945, he returned to San Francisco and enrolled in college to obtain a teaching certificate, but left without graduating after he was arrested on lewd conduct charges in the men's restroom of the St. Francis Hotel's Oak Room bar.

With his aspirations for a teaching career ruined by a sex-crime record, Sarria set his sights on entertaining. He began singing at the Black Cat — an eclectic venue in the Bohemian North Beach district, which Allen Ginsberg dubbed "the greatest gay bar in America" — where he worked part-time as a cocktail waiter. Throughout the 1950s, he starred in a regular Sunday brunch show at the bar, singing parodies of opera arias.

Unusually out for his era, Sarria used his performances to promote gay pride and equal rights. Sometimes, his reworked lyrics included coded warnings of impending cruising busts, passed along to Sarria by sympathetic police officers. At the end of each weekly performance, Sarria urged the audience — mostly gay men — to stand and sing a rendition of "God Save Us Nelly Queens." As homophile activist George Mendenhall later recalled, "[W]e were not really saying 'God Save Us Nelly Queens.' We were saying 'We have our rights, too.'"

Sarria's growing fame as a nationally known female impersonator brought an ever-larger crowd of homosexuals to the Black Cat, which became something of a gay community center and soon drew the attention of the police and alcohol-control authorities. During the McCarthy era of the early 1950s, gay and lesbian bars were extorted for payoffs and frequently raided; gay men were regularly arrested for cruising, and drag queens were harassed for impersonating members of the opposite sex — leading Sarria to distribute labels stating "I am a boy," so the wearer could not be accused of



Jose Sarria, aka the Widow Norton

deception. After the club's license was revoked, owner Sol Stoumen filed a lawsuit, and in 1951 won a California Supreme Court ruling that venues could not be closed simply for having a gay clientele.

In response, the state legislature enacted a new law allowing authorities to revoke the liquor licenses of establishments serving "sex perverts," and the harassment intensified.

Amidst this climate of intimidation, Sarria ran for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in

1961 — the first openly gay man in the country to seek public office. Despite a low-key campaign and minimal funding, Sarria garnered more than 5,600 votes, although he failed to win one of the five open seats.

Sarria's respectable vote tally shocked both the city's homosexual community and its political establishment, sowing the first seeds of gay political clout in San Francisco. The gay community realized that it could wield considerable power as a voting bloc, and before long, gay bars were holding voter registration drives and homophile organizations were hosting candidate forums. Despite these gains, however, an openly

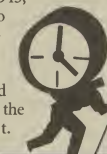
gay man would not win office in the city until Harvey Milk was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1977.

Sarria co-founded the League for Civic Education and was involved in the formation of the Tavern Guild, an organization of gay bar owners. But after the Black Cat closed following a final license revocation in 1963, he perceived a leadership void in the community. After being crowned queen of the Tavern Guild's Beaux Arts Ball in 1964, Sarria declared himself Empress. Taking the name "the Widow Norton," he adopted the legacy of Joshua Norton, a notorious San Francisco eccentric of the Gold Rush era who declared himself Emperor of the United States. Over the objections of those who felt the gay community should not be represented by a drag queen, "I re-established myself as the leader of the community," Sarria later recalled, "with much discussion, with much fight, but I won."

In 1965, Sarria established the Imperial Court System, which today comprises some 80 chapters in the United States, Canada, and several other countries. Succeeding Empresses and Emperors — both of which may now be of either sex — are chosen in annual elections. Since its founding, the court system has raised tens of thousands of dollars for charity.

Now living in Palm Springs, Sarria continues to attend Imperial Court functions as "Queen Mother," and still leads an annual pilgrimage to Joshua Norton's grave in Woodlawn Memorial Park south of San Francisco. In the adjoining plot, Sarria's headstone is already in place, proclaiming, "United we stand, divided they catch us one by one." ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at [PastOut@qsyndicate.com](mailto:PastOut@qsyndicate.com).



Past Out

## An artist's touch



Artist and local political activist Debra Walker, right, is all smiles at this week's Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club meeting as her depiction of the Hall of Justice was chosen to be on the cover of Public Defender Jeff Adachi's annual report for 2004.

## To Our Valued Customers, Employees, Vendors and Friends:

From: The Club Rendez-vous



It is with great sadness that we have decided not to reopen the Club Rendezvous Bar because of opposition by the Lower Polk Neighbors association (LPN). After attending numerous meetings with this group, it was clear that their intention was to thwart any attempt to reopen at a new location in the area. The B.A.R. did a very thought-provoking article regarding our situation in the February 17, 2005 issue questioning if this group is trying to "de-gay" Polk Street. Much of the subject matter debated during our meetings was focused on the "undesirables" lingering on the sidewalk. While our customers and performers went outside to smoke, LPN saw them as drug users, homeless and prostitutes. We were encouraged to limit our business hours to after 4pm; "improve our clientele" (de-gay?) and faulted us for not policing the entire block---even though we were the only business open on the block for the past five years. The vacant space at the corner of Polk and Fern, which was to have been our new location, remains vacant and a "blight", to use LPN's words. LPN opposition made our move impossible.

We do, however, have our memories of the good times and countless fun events. We thank you, our customers, for your patronage. We remember the many groups that gave Club Rendez-vous the diversity that was uniquely Polk Street: from the Imperial and Ducal Courts to Leather Dome, from SF Aids Foundation benefits to the 49er Club. All these events will be missed and cherished for a long time. It is regrettable that one group's morals can affect a community so profoundly. The goal of the LPN is to clean up the streets and improve the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the impact has caused the termination of jobs for our employees, the elimination of a gathering place for our customers, and the loss of fundraising events we held for community charities.

There seem to be fewer and fewer places that neighborhood gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and straight people can mingle and feel welcome and at home. We are proud gay business owners and remain optimistic that, with your support we can continue the real spirit of Polk Street in a hospitable location.

Sincerely,

*David C. Kapp & Paul A. Xavier*

Special gratitude to the following people who have helped contribute to make the club a success, many of whom have graced our stage:

To the Imperial and Ducal Families statewide, nationwide & international: Jose Sarria, Steven Rascher, Marlena, Susie Wong, China Silk, Donna Sachet, Berlin, Fernando Robles, Barbie LaChoy, Simeon Traw, Pushy Phyllis, Philip Evans, Maxine, David Nyburg, Sheba, TJ Istevan, Toby, Anita Martini, Chablis, Brian Benamati, Snatch, Rob Perin, Michael Parsons, Savannah, Diva LaFever, Alexis Miranda, Tiger Lily, Tom Basch, Kristy Cruise, Angelina Josephina Manicotti, Carlotta, Lincoln, The Blaster Sisters, Colette LeGrande, Greg Osmon, Frank Stevens, Goldie, Fred Thompson, Mr. Leona, Tish Crabb, Renita Valdez, Morticia, Jada, John Carrillo, Larry Cook, Faberge, Davida, Linda Lopez and Gail Wood. Also to the Lanning Family; Don, Keith and Gladys Bumps; From Portland: Steve Suss, Don Gaff, Darcelle, the ever-fabulous Mame and the Rose Court of Portland.

To Zac & Dave of Macho, the great Cockatielia and the performers of *TilFriday* (our longest running show), Kitty Glamour, Holotta Tymes, Sofonda Boyz, Manley Lennox, Karen Kill, Deana Dawn, Suppository Spelling, Veronica Klaus, Daphne Deluxe, Princess Kennedy, Robbie, Gypsy Calabrese, Casandra, Minnie Minerva and Ron, Ginger Snap, Vicki Marlene, Gina LaDavina, Lady Tia, Amanda Love, Warren Hart, Victoria Secret. To the *Men of Exotica*: Ali Ravan, Joe Joe, Rico, Chris, Tim, Nikko, Brandon, Nick Night, Steve Tyler, Bam Bam and Duffy. To our Mama Sandy Reinhardt, Gary Virginia, Tom Braddock, Eric Hanson, Miss Trout, Bob Bronson, Mark Paladini, Ray Tilton, Richie Chamero and all of Mama's boys.

To Robbie Robinson, Greta Grass, John Houser, the Honorable Willie Brown, Doug Graff, Doug Cox, Tom Haas, Mark Campanella, James Dein, Scott Miller, Chuck Davis, Gerry Olson, Jack Davis, Mark Leno, Carol Migden, Robert Golovich, *Robert Michael Productions*, Carolene Marks, Alvin Orloff, Don Laird, Roxie Hart, Wayne Friday, Bob Ross, Sue Bierman, Phil Junot, Linda McBride, Pearl, John Hughes, Manfred, Ann Dolynuk and Norman, Joshua Jones, Oscar, Linda Miller, Rahn Fudge, *Bay Guardian*, *Odyssey*, *Gloss*, RINK, Tom Nolan, Jay Noonan, Leo Pribble, David Gin and Gary Nathan at *Spectrum*, *Bay Times*, *SF Weekly*, *Fun Maps*, *Frontiers*. The B.A. R. staff: Cynthia Laird, Michael Yamashita, Zak Szymanski, David McBrayer, Tom Horn and all the faithful 49er Fan Club members.

**AND OUR STAFF**, past and present: Richard "Sweet lips" Walters, Richard "Rachel" Kuttner, Mike McColligan, Kenny Allison, Dave Ryan, L. James Beales, Ms "Do You Hear Me?" Ronnie Lynn Bandoni, John "Boom Boom" Pearson, Michael Scholl, Ron Rios, Paul Grisham, Ivan Young, Alexis Francoise, Reggie Snowdon, Kipp Capprino, Dennis Tyler, Dayne Johnson, Tom Wagner, Ed Nelson, Glen Lindke, David Delgado, Jose Sifuentes, Steve Pollack, Marlowe Smith, Kiko and Ray of Light Carmona.

**THE FUND-RAISERS we had the pleasure to host:** Stop Aids Project, GLBT Community Center, SF AIDS Foundation, Larkin Street Youth Ctr., AIDS Emergency Fund, Every Penny Counts, AIDS Ride SF, Imperial Courts of SF Alameda and San Jose, Ducal Court of SF, Esthers Pantry for the Rose Court of Portland OR, Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, Gay Softball League, AIDS Memorial Grove, Mama Sandy Reinharts Breast Cancer Fund, Koret Ctr., Derek Silva Fund, Project Open Hand, Asian Pacific Wellness Ctr., World Trade Ctr. Sept 11 Fund, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, PAWS, Tenderloin Tessies Holiday Dinners, Positive Force, American Heart Association, Golden Gate Guards, Inter Club Fund, LeatherWalk SF, GLBT Parade Fund, Mama's Toy Drive, the Bay Area Chapter of the IGRA.

And to the greatest customers, our regulars, our friends, thank you for making the club a home.

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# Steamy windows, alert neighbor

by Jane Warner

**U**nit block of Landers, February 20, 10:44 p.m.: While having a cigarette on her fire escape, a woman looked down to the street and saw a man walking back and forth in front of a parked Honda. Suddenly the man bent over and was doing something to the door lock that the woman couldn't see. After awhile, the windows of the car began to steam up and the woman saw the suspicious man rummaging through the interior of the car with a flashlight. Calling 911 on her cell phone, the woman watched as the suspect exited the car with a large backpack and started running southbound on Landers. A police car responding to the call sped down Landers after the suspect. A foot chase ensued but the suspect eluded the officer. Several other officers responded to the area and after about 20 minutes, police found the thief hiding underneath a parked car on 15th Street. The suspect, 19, was taken to Mission Station where he was booked for auto burglary, possession of stolen property, and vandalism to a vehicle.



**Crime & Punishment**

## Hide and seek

**Unit block of Liberty, February 20, 6:37 a.m.:** A woman and her mother heard someone breaking into an apartment in their building. As they looked through the peep hole, they saw a strange man enter the vacant apartment. The women called 911 as they

listened to the suspect's footsteps above them. When officers arrived, the women pointed to the apartment and told them, "He's in there." Officers banged on the door and loudly announced, "San Francisco Police Department, come out." When

they received no response, the officers entered the apartment with guns drawn. As they searched for the suspect, officers heard a loud snoring coming from a closet. When they opened the closet door, they found the suspect asleep on a shoe rack. Officers woke up the 53-year-old suspect and placed him under arrest for burglary. A search of his clothing revealed several pills suspected to be narcotics and a clear plastic bag of white powder.

## Armed robbery

**16th and Church streets, February 19, 3:50 p.m.:** A man walking south on Church Street carrying a motorized toy boat was startled when a large white Ford pickup suddenly cut him off by pulling in front of him. The passenger in the

truck leaned out the window and pointed a silver handgun. "Give me your money, and put the boat in the cab or I'll blast you," the passenger said. Afraid for his life, the man put the toy boat in the bed of the pickup and then handed over \$60 he took out of his wallet. The suspects — described as African American men in their 40s — drove off eastbound on 16th Street.

## Battery after midnight

**Castro and Market streets, February 21, 2:30 a.m.:** After the bars closed, a man walked over to the bus stop at Castro and Market. As he stood waiting for the coach to arrive, a man whom he recognized from around the neighborhood approached him and started to call him names. "Fucking fag," he screamed and then suddenly punched the victim in the face, causing him to fall to the ground. The suspect — described as a white male, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds and wearing a black leather jacket and blue jeans — kicked and punched the victim with his fists and then fled in an unknown direction. Responding officers searched the area for the suspect, but could not find him. The victim told the officers that he and the suspect had both been drinking. ▼

**The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.**

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# Noel takes parole fight to appeals court

by Ed Walsh

**T**he man convicted in connection with the fatal dog-mauling of Diane Whipple in 2001 plans to appeal the ruling last week where San Francisco Superior Court Judge Mary Morgan denied his bid to end his parole immediately, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Robert Noel was first informed of Morgan's ruling by the B.A.R. on Monday, January 31. In an e-mailed statement, Noel told the B.A.R.: "Under the circumstances, the decision, though contrary to the facts and law, is no surprise and was expected. The matter will be pursued in the Court of Appeal."

Robert Noel alleged that the Board of Prison Terms had no right to keep him on parole beyond October 14, 2004. He contended that the board did not hold a meeting to discuss his parole in a timely manner with a three-member panel. He also argued that the panel did not find any just cause why he should have to continue on parole.

In her ruling, Morgan countered that the parole board formalized its decision to retain him on parole on September 2, 2004, within the required 13-month anniversary of his release. Noel was released from prison on September 14, 2003. She noted that although Noel may not have been

notified of the parole board's decision until October 18, 2004, that notification date was irrelevant because the decision itself was made within the required time.

Morgan added that Noel was incorrect in his contention that a three-member panel of the parole board was required to retain him on parole. Morgan wrote that the law "allows the board to meet in this fashion — it does not require that the board do so."

Finally, Morgan wrote that the parole board has "broad, almost unlimited, discretion in parole matters."

Morgan noted that the parole board found that Noel "should be retained on parole owing to the extensive notoriety of his case as well as his commitment offense. The recommendation noted [Noel's] good record and the 'outstanding adjustment' he made during parole."

Barring a successful outcome of further appeals, the parole board could keep Noel on parole for his full three-year parole term, which would end in September 2006.

Noel and his wife, Marjorie Knoller, were convicted of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the dog-mauling of Whipple, their neighbor. Prosecutors successfully convinced a jury that the couple ignored warnings that their two Presa Canario dogs were dangerous. ▼

# Federal health agency retreats on censoring gay suicide panel

by Matthew S. Bajko

**F**aced with mounting criticism for initially banning GLBT references in the title of a panel on gay suicide prevention at a conference this weekend, the federal agency that imposed the censorship restrictions reversed course last week.

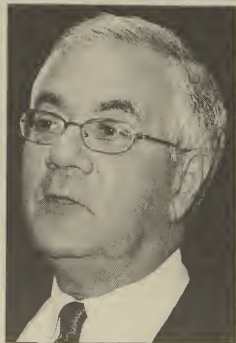
On Monday, February 14 an e-mail from the panel leaders detailing the censorship circulated among health officials across the country and decried the decision made by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration not to allow the words gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender to appear in the panel's title.

The e-mail, sent by Reid Vanderburgh, one of three presenters of the panel, detailed how government funders within the Bush administration at SAMHSA notified the Suicide Prevention Resource Center that SAMHSA administrator, Charles Curie, would not be allowed to attend a SPRC regional conference on suicide prevention if conference organizers went forward with a workshop title that included the GLBT words.

SPRC, a Newton, Massachusetts-based SAMHSA grantee, is organizing the conference, scheduled to take place in Portland, Oregon, February 28 through March 2. The original title of the workshop was "Suicide Prevention Among Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Transgender Individuals." Vanderburgh noted that two other suicide prevention conferences, one in New Orleans and the other in Denver, contained workshops with similar titles to his panel but were not a problem.

"The difference? Both were held prior to the last election," he wrote.

On January 31, Lloyd Potter, SPRC center director, contacted



Rep. Barney Frank

Vanderburgh and the other two workshop presenters, Ron Bloodworth and Joyce Liljeholm, and requested that they come up with alternative wording for the workshop.

"We worked with SPRC to cre-

would 'not fly with SAMHSA.'"

According to the e-mail, the three Portland-based experts decided to come forward about the censorship because "we will not be quiet about the heavy-handed efforts of SAMHSA to render gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender people invisible. The action of our government in this regard is the very reason a workshop on suicide prevention with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender individuals is needed. How ironic! The discriminatory and intimidating actions of SAMHSA and the Bush administration should not go unchallenged and should be of concern to all Americans."

After the *Washington Post* reported on the e-mail Tuesday, February 15, SAMHSA came under attack from gay rights groups as well as gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts). The Human Rights Campaign called for an investigation

**"The discriminatory and intimidating actions of SAMHSA and the Bush administration should not go unchallenged."**

ate alternative wording so that the workshop could continue to be offered but we expressed deep concern about government intrusion to remove any reference to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the workshop title and descriptor," wrote Vanderburgh. "After agreeing to the title 'Suicide Prevention in Vulnerable Populations,' we were told that the new title would be acceptable to SAMHSA and that we could use the term 'sexual orientation' in the workshop descriptor but that the term 'gender identity'

by the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees SAMHSA, in response to the news reports.

In a letter to acting HHS Inspector General Daniel Levinson, David M. Smith, HRC vice president for policy and strategy, wrote that his group was concerned that SAMHSA's actions "may be part of a larger pattern of politics undermining the independence and integrity of the health and science arena."

HRC and other groups have raised concerns before over past

page 21 ►

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# SF State group launches sexual literacy campaign

by Liz Highleyman

**T**he National Sexuality Resource Center at San Francisco State University this month launched the first "sexual literacy" campaign, intended to promote awareness of healthy sexuality.

"Sexual literacy is the knowledge and skills needed to promote and protect sexual wellness," said NSRC director Gilbert Herdt, Ph.D., a professor of human sexuality and anthropology at SFSU. "Sexual literacy is an attitude of openness and the desire to learn about sexuality throughout life. Sexually literate people do not mistake packaged sex for genuine sexuality. Sexual literacy is a key to social progress."

As part of the yearlong national public education effort, NSRC launched a new Web site

(www.sexliteracy.org) February 14 featuring a 12-question sexual literacy quiz, which aims to "test Americans on what they really know about sexuality."

NSRC promises that the Web site will be updated monthly with "new information and tools that promote sexual wellness and sexual rights, and offer a comprehensive and wholesome view of sexuality." The site will also profile groups around the country that promote sexual health.

Founded in February 2003, NSRC - a project of SF State's Human Sexuality Studies Program - aims to "increase sexual literacy by providing training, articles on sexuality research and community work, as well as resources on sexual health, education, and rights."

"We want to make America safe for sexuality," Herdt said at the opening of the center's offices

in the Mission. "Our country's long history of fear, shame, and silence surrounding sexuality damages the physical and mental health of Americans at all ages."

NSRC produces two online publications, *American Sexuality* magazine and the journal *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. It also holds an annual summer institute on sexuality, society, and health, and hosts the biennial conference of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society. This year's conference - to be held June 21-24 at SFSU - will bring together academics, students, advocates, policy-makers, and health providers from around the world to discuss "Sexual Rights and Moral Panics." ▼

For more information about NSRC and its projects, visit [www.nsrc.sfsu.edu](http://www.nsrc.sfsu.edu).

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# Winter a chilly season for the mayor as he begins his second year



Mayor Gavin Newsom meets with members of the ethnic media.

by Matthew S. Bajko

A year ago at this time Mayor Gavin Newsom found himself awash in a "Winter of Love" after he ordered city officials to marry same-sex couples. Celebrated February 12 for the one-year anniversary of his historic decision, he has seen the applause and adoration from that weekend quickly turn into jabs and barbs slung his way.

Today, Newsom is mired more in a "Winter of Discontent."

It began with a *San Francisco Examiner* editorial last Thursday that basically calls Newsom a leader with no new ideas, stuck on old issues like same-sex marriage and homelessness. As for Newsom's introduction this month of an anti-litter initiative, the paper's response is basically "so what."

"But where are the major new

initiatives from Newsom? The closest thing has been the recent introduction of an anti-litter campaign. While litter is not an insignificant problem, maintaining clean streets should be something every mayor does as a matter of course," wrote the paper's editorial board.

The editorial goes on to say that the city's Board of Supervisors — which generates more headlines for only-in-San Francisco legislation like codes for outdoor dog houses and vulgar verbal spats between members than serious proposals — has shown greater leadership in coming up with new ideas to solve the city's problems than the mayor.

Since last Friday the city's business leaders have been voicing their own complaints with Newsom for his role in the ongoing contract dispute between 14 hotels and their union workers. At the urging of Unite Here Local 2,

several conventions canceled coming to San Francisco and opted to head to other cities to avoid being met with picket lines at their hotels.

Newsom, who walked the picket line in a show of support for the workers last year, is personally boycotting the 14 hotels himself and has yet to tell the union leaders to back off from making more phone calls to other groups planning conventions in the city.

Asked during a press briefing with local ethnic media last Friday, February 18 if he agreed with the union's tactics, Newsom lashed out at local business leaders for not putting pressure on the hotel owners to resolve the contract talks.

"I made it very clear when the hotels twice rejected to end the lockouts I would not be going personally to those 14 hotels. I am not encouraging anyone to boycott those hotels. Mike Cassey with Local 2 has every right to boycott those hotels," said Newsom, referring to the union's leader. "I cannot condone what the hotels did, locking out 3,000 people during the holidays."

"I am dumbfounded that 'business leaders' are not critical of the hotels locking out their people and forcing them to picket. They were no where to be found," added Newsom.

Patricia Breslin, of the San Francisco Hotel Council, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* Monday that Newsom's boycott is affecting business, costing the city revenue and employees their jobs.

"I would like to see a press release from the mayor asking labor to stop their threat of boycotts," Breslin is quoted as saying. "It's chasing business out of town, and that business will not recover quickly."

Amid the ongoing labor strife, this week the Golden Gate Business Association launched its new "Come Out Here" campaign for 2005, an effort to attract more lesbian and gay tourists to San Francisco. Pointing to statistics showing as many as 97 percent of gay men and lesbian travelers took vacations in the past 12 months, the gay business group hopes its campaign will attract more of those tourists and their dollars to San Francisco.

The \$38,000 campaign includes a new Web site devoted to travelers from out of town set to launch in late March or early April, attendance at eight gay travel expos in the U.S. and Canada, and a partnership with Columbia Fun Maps, which is printing and distributing 200,000 San Francisco maps with the campaign's slogan.

GGBA President Jerry Becerra acknowledged that the timing of the campaign's launch amid the labor dispute is unfortunate. Last year GGBA opted not to attend a convention held at one of the hotels being picketed in a show of support to the union.

"I think that poses some challenges for everyone in this city, not just gay and lesbians. I don't think we should send a message to people that they should stay home," he said. "They have choices, they can choose to stay somewhere else like at a guest house or with friends. We do want to en-

page 23 ►

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## Gung Hay Fat Choy!



Jeanne Fong and Jennifer Lin, married at San Francisco City Hall on February 13, 2004, wave to the crowd from atop the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance's float during San Francisco's annual Chinese New Year Parade Saturday, February 19. The float featured a same-sex wedding cake and married couple Stuart Gaffney and John Lewis. GAPA received permission from parade organizers for the float, which was sponsored by Equality California with financial support from the Horizons Foundation.

Photo: Jennifer Lin

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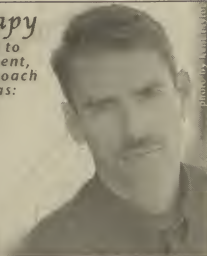


Photo: Dr. Brian Swager

# Marriage group takes 'Engagement' tour statewide

by Tyson Gillfillan

Dubbing February "Freedom to Marry Month," LGBT organization Equality California has reached out to supporters in every corner of the state with a slew of grassroots events.

While the group has historically encouraged same-sex couples to request marriage licenses at their local county clerk's office on Valentine's Day, this year Equality California augmented the initiative with a statewide movement called the "Get Engaged Tour." Organizers described the effort as a way to educate people, as well as lay the groundwork to battle an impending constitutional amendment seeking to outlaw gay marriage, civil unions, and domestic partnerships, which could hit California ballots as early as this fall.

The Valentine's Day activities did take place throughout the state, and in San Francisco and other Bay Area counties. A lively crowd showed up at the Contra Costa County clerk's office, where openly gay County Clerk Stephen Weir was on hand, but did not issue any marriage licenses to same-sex couples. He has previ-



Get engaged: Equality California member Erica Martin being interviewed by a local television reporter while trying to get a marriage license at the Contra Costa County clerk's office on Valentine's Day. Behind Martin is her partner Melissa Stoddard with their child.

Alexandra L. True

ously told the *Bay Area Reporter* that while he supports same-sex marriage, his job is to uphold the law, which currently does not allow for same-sex marriage licenses.

Get Engaged director Davina Kotulski said the program connects with and supports LGBTs throughout the state.

"We've been holding rallies, film screenings, dinner parties, and potlucks to empower communities and discuss marriage equality and the threat of a discriminatory constitutional amendment in California," said Kotulski. "You name a county and we are getting people out there, changing hearts and minds."

Equality California is spreading the marriage message by identifying local chapter leaders, who take charge of outreach efforts in their communities. Chapter leaders in turn get support from the larger organization and help craft messages that they know will resonate with their neighbors.

Said Auburn-based chapter leader Toby Adams, "We don't have a GLBT community here, so it's easy to feel isolated - to want

page 22 ►



EQCA member Leslie Stewart outside the Contra Costa County clerk's office.

Alexandra L. True

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## Grand marshal

◀ page 1

and service in these current political times. "I've been giving a great deal of thought as to what I might be doing now that it's quite apparent the nation at large is in need of education and awareness on issues relating to the LGBT community," Hornel told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a recent interview.

**Alec Mapa** is an openly gay actor, playwright, journalist, comic, and performer currently appearing as a cast regular on the popular UPN series *Half & Half*.

The San Francisco-born star launched his career in 1989 with his award-winning role in the Broadway run of *M. Butterfly*; then became television's first gay Asian series regular during his stint on the show *Some of My Best Friends*. He has had four of his plays produced on stage, and he has appeared on television shows such as *Dharma & Greg*, *Seinfeld*, *Friends*, *Law & Order*, and *N.Y.P.D. Blue*.

Mapa is equally proud of the activism he is able to perform, either by being an openly gay Filipino in show business, or devoting his time and resources to nonprofits — from delivering food for the Los Angeles charity Project Angel Food to running in the Honolulu Marathon to raise money for AIDS Project Los Angeles to emceeing events for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Mapa was among *Out* magazine's "Top Out 100" people for 2004, and he writes a regular column for the *Advocate* called Minority Retort.

**Molly McKay** has taken many vows, but most recently pledged that she is going to continue to be the "rabble rouser" in the fight for LGBT equality, never backing down for her support of same-sex marriage rather than civil unions, even as the country faces yet another attempt to write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution.

Fighting against an antigay-marriage effort while also claiming not to support gay marriage confuses the public, she said, with double-speak rather than conviction. And so she will continue to appear at events in her "battle garb" — also known as her white wedding dress — especially in places where she has been advised not to do so.

Since 1999, McKay and her partner Davina Kotulski (author of *Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage*) have been marching to San Francisco City Hall to request a marriage license. Year after year — with the exception of last year, when the city made the historic decision to wed thousands of gay couples — they have been denied. But that hasn't stopped them. McKay serves as associate executive director for both Equality California — the statewide LGBT lobbying organization — and Marriage Equality California, the grassroots project now merged into EQCA that is devoted to securing marriage rights for same-sex couples.

On her grand marshal nomination, McKay said, "I'm honored

and thrilled. I feel that the work I'm involved in is a grassroots-mobilized force, and I'm just one of the thousands of people in the state working toward marriage equality. But I think the nomination is a great opportunity to increase visibility around the importance of having full equality, and I'm going to use it as an opportunity to do more educational work on this issue."

**Juanita More** is one of San Francisco's most influential drag personas, with a resume that includes founding the drag troupe Fishstix, helping produce the world-famous Trannyshack pageants, and performing at venues and street fairs all over the city and country.

More's charity work has included donating her time and appearances to numerous fundraisers over the years for organizations like Visual Aid, AIDS Benefit Counselors, Academy of Friends, Larkin Street Youth Center, Tom Ammiano for Mayor, Lavendar Youth Recreation and Information Center, and Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, helping to raise a total of over \$250,000 for the groups over the years. Long involved in HIV/AIDS work, More was a part of the first effort to serve the city's earliest diagnosed patients, and also worked as a peer support volunteer at Shanti. She has been a fundraising chair of AGUILAS, serving the needs of gay, bisexual, and questioning men. And, as she likes to point out, she does all of it in style, as a "creation of fashion and glamour, of generosity and nerve."

On her grand marshal nomination, More said, "Flattering me with the honor of being a community individual nominee for the SF LGBT Pride Parade will get you my love, gratitude, and lipstick traces. After more than 20 years of blowing kisses from the parade, performing for thousands of beautiful boys and girls, and making new friends in the crowd, nothing would make me prouder than to fashionably float down Market Street."

**Peggy Moore** is one of the most influential forces behind the emerging East Bay LGBT community. The activist, organizer, photographer, and businesswoman is the founder of Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, otherwise known as the East Bay Dyke March, a daylong festival now entering its fourth year which aims to nurture intergenerational and multicultural bridges; empower the area's diverse lesbian and bisexual community of women; and bring together opportunities for artists, activists, organizers, and individuals.

She is an African American and a lesbian, two identities and experiences which she says "definitely play into the work that I do." She is a member of former Oakland City Councilmember Danny Wan's roundtable meetings at City Hall for the LGBT community, which have resulted in local legislative initiatives as well as the proposed creation of a gay-specific neighborhood. Moore is also the only openly LGBT candidate running to replace Wan for the City Council seat in District 2;

the special election will be held in May (see story, page 3).

On her grand marshal nomination, Moore said, "I'm so excited. That's really special that someone would go out of their way to nominate me; it warms my heart."

**Donna Sachet** is one of the most recognizable faces — gay or straight — in San Francisco. The celebrity drag queen and former Miss Gay San Francisco and Empress is a regular contest judge, event emcee, ribbon-cutter, Pride Parade television hostess, and party entertainer, with performance credentials including the Plush Room; the Castro Theatre; the Great American Music Hall; Marlena's; the Grand Staircase of City Hall; Sydney, Australia's Gay Mardi Gras; and the Marriott Marquis on Broadway in New York.

Sachet's charity efforts include a variety of fundraisers to which she has donated her talents. She also hosts the long-running annual *Songs of the Season* holiday show, with proceeds going to help people with HIV/AIDS. She serves or has served as honorary co-chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund; board member of Positive Resource Center; co-chair of the Imperial Council; president of the Empress' Council; and board member of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center. She has received numerous awards for her fundraising work and letters of recognition from state and city legislators and elected officials. Recently, Sachet became the B.A.R.'s society columnist.

## Organization nominees

Up for grand marshal in the organization category are Equality California, the statewide political advocacy group responsible for sponsoring and passing several recent LGBT protections; the Inter-Club Fund, a coalition of leather and motorcycle-oriented clubs in the South of Market area; the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the legal resource center that conducts litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education for LGBT families; Pets Are Wonderful Support, which provides pet care assistance to people with disabling illnesses; and SF TEAM, the San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentorship group that conducts events and organizing for the transgender community.

## 'Pink Brick'

Don't forget to vote for the homophobic honor of the year, whether it be nominees like the Reverend Lou Sheldon or Traditional Values Coalition for their blatant attacks; or the more subtle rhetoric of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who not only criticized San Francisco's gay marriages, but then blamed the LGBT movement for the re-election of President Bush, becoming one of the first officials to make the leap that "moral values" obviously meant "antigay." ▼

More information on grand marshal voting — including locations and times of future polling places — can be found at [www.sfpdridge.org](http://www.sfpdridge.org).

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# Ark of Refuge opens new programs

by Kevin Davis

Ark of Refuge and City of Refuge members answered joyfully the call "Can I get an Amen?" many times Monday, February 21 when about 75 of them christened a new one-stop youth services drop-in center and transitional LGBTQ youth housing project in San Francisco's South of Market District.

The Reverend Dr. Yvette Flunder, Ark of Refuge executive director and City of Refuge Church's senior pastor, cut the red ribbon across the doorway at the new community center named after her. Employees, congregants, clergy, and Ark clients attended the ceremony.

The Ark Board President Louis Knox emceed the ceremony, and speakers took turns at the podium thanking financial contributors to the four-year process of retrofitting the space. The project cost \$1.5 million, of which \$1.4 million was a loan from the United Church of Christ, with which the church is affiliated. The 41,000 square foot building provides many services for local youth.

In addition to the Ark's current 20-30 social service programs such as transgender spiritual outreach in the jails, choir rehearsals, and a residence for dual-diagnosed, HIV-positive women, the new community center offers youth coordinated courses in small business entrepreneurship, computer training, food service, resume development, GED tutoring, and pastoral counseling.

Speakers thanked the Mayor's Office of Community Development, under both Mayor Gavin Newsom and former Mayor Willie Brown, Wells Fargo, the Goldman Fund, the Hearst Foundation, the Koret Foundation, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, and the health department's AIDS office Director Jimmy Loyce.

A representative from UCC's Ohio national office spoke on behalf of UCC President John Thomas and talked of the Ark's and the church's "prophetic witness."

"Suffer the little children that they be able to come to their fullness with their own identities," said Valerie Brown-Trount, the 800-congregant church's senior associate pastor and the Ark's deputy director, in a gratitude prayer for bringing the building to fruition. "Harriet Street is your place ... to rebuild lives."

Contractors fortified the community center space, which housed a former print shop. They dramatically retrofitted the mezzanine, which contains meeting tables, offices for Flunder and her assistant, and an African Stone Shona sculpture purchased on one of Flunder's biyearly trips to a Zimbabwe orphanage where church members have adopted children whose parents died of AIDS. Members hung poster-size photos of the orphanage on the center's wall.

Flunder painted a Godfatherish scene as she described a day two years ago when she signed escrow papers. Flunder recounted that the late *Bay Area Reporter* publisher Bob Ross called her, and vaguely approximating Ross's familiar business-butth baritone



Supporters tour the new Ark House, a recently opened project of the Ark of Refuge.

said, "I understand you people need some money."

After Ross chastised her for arriving late to their SOMA lunch appointment, she soon received a check to make up the deficient amount they needed to assign the property's legal title to the church — \$15,000.

Across the street from the Ark of Refuge is the DPH-funded Ark House, a LGBTQ youth residence, where another ribbon-cutting took place with Flunder and Michelle Long Dixon, director of HIV/AIDS health services at the health department. Afterwards, the crowd streamed in to tour the refurbished 17-bed, five bedroom home with living, dining, reading and computer rooms where youth ages 18-23 can live for up to 18 months.

When Ark House's \$70,000 renovation budget would not cover fire sprinkler installation and other code enforcements, Knox successfully appealed to the Board of Supervisor's Finance Committee for an additional \$100,000.

"We know you're broke, but we also know you're the man," Flunder told the mayor. "When a determined group of people focus, they can squeeze resources out of a dollar," she said.

SOMA's light industry workers and condominium residents should not complain about Ark House, secured with a 10-year lease, as Castro residents did during the Ark's two-year stay at City Athletic Club.

"It's a good relationship," Flunder said, gesturing to the landlord, "but we're still working it out."

"I'm of the opinion that the gay community has to be proactive to find ways to help young people stay safe," said Flunder, calling them "same-gender loving people ... seeking the liberating love of God's radical inclusiveness."

"Worship is not any more important than housing. What we do is what we believe," Flunder added.

Bishop Mary Susan Gast, Northern California/Nevada Conference minister, explained that although non-hierarchical UCC churches contribute to a common outreach and liberation movement, each ministry studies and discerns God's vision, and expresses its theological mission independently.

Gast called the community

center a place where "generations to come will be created in the image and likeness of God."

Franzetta Houston, the Ark's chief operating officer, leads a three-year-old program matching 28 gay men and transgender women ages 18-25 with older mentors, intensely trained on ethics and appropriate boundaries. The logic of the program is to reduce STDs and domestic violence, and provide protective sup-

page 19 ►



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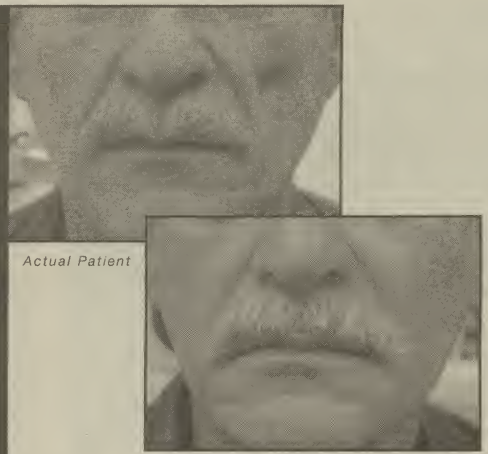
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# 15 Association celebrates 25 years

by Liz Highleyman

This weekend, February 25-27, the 15 Association – a social and sexual fraternal organization for men into BDSM – will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a series of events in San Francisco.

The club will hold its annual dinner Friday, February 25, followed by a play party on Saturday, and an informal afternoon party and buffet on Sunday.

To celebrate the 15's anniversary, the Board of Supervisors issued a commendation at the request of District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy.

"Whereas the 15 has provided gay men with a safe, enjoyable outlet for the free practice and greater understanding of the leather lifestyle," the resolution reads in part, the Board "congratulates its members on a safe, successful, and wildly enjoyable first quarter-century."

Founded in 1980, the 15 is still going strong as the oldest continuously existing gay male BDSM club in the western U.S. The group originated out of the tradition of gay motorcycle clubs, which began in the late 1940s. Several of

the 15's founding members were involved with the mixed-gender, mixed-orientation Society of Janus, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last October.

"Since its founding the 15 has been providing a place for gay leathermen to meet and experience the leather lifestyle with safety, respect, and brotherhood," said senior member Daddy Peter Fiske, who joined the club three months after its inception.

"We've pretty much stuck to the vision of the founding members, to create a space where men into BDSM could come together and practice it," club Chairman J.W. Rutkowski told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "That's why we've been around so long."

Both men noted, however, that there have been some changes over the years.

"Back in 1980, everything was very role-based. You had to be a top to be a full member," Fiske recalled, noting that the club's current leadership now also includes bottoms. "Today, people are much less set in their roles. A lot of younger guys aren't so much into leather, but are more into kink or bondage or SM. I also think they're a little friendlier than they were 25 years ago."



Longtime 15 Association member Peter Fiske

"As BDSM has gone more mainstream, there's more of a distinction between what is leather and what is BDSM," Rutkowski concurred. "We are leathermen, but the most important thing to us is the play."

The 15 currently has a membership of about 125 gay, bisexual, and transgender leathermen. Four years ago it became perhaps the first gay male leather/BDSM organization to explicitly welcome transgender men with male ID. Though based in San Francisco,

the club has members across the U.S. and in several other countries.

Since its earliest days the 15 has held monthly play parties, and also sponsors its annual Boot Camp in Saratoga Springs, modeled after the motorcycle runs of yore.

"Thousands of men have come to our events over the years, and many couples have met there," Fiske told the *B.A.R.* "Two of the couples married at City Hall last year met at the 15."

The 15 considers education a core part of its mission, but that doesn't mean boring classroom lectures. "We educate by example," said Rutkowski. "Everyone is expert in something, and when we all come together we learn by watching other people."

"With the growth of the Internet – especially porn – people get ideas," he continued. "They think they know what they want, but they don't know whether their potential partner knows what he's doing." To help ensure an atmosphere that promotes safe exploration, dungeon monitors are always present at 15 Association play parties.

Though best known as a social and sexual organization, the 15 has also made a name for itself in the fundraising arena. Since 1980 Fiske estimates that the group has raised

more than \$100,000, mostly for HIV/AIDS groups such as the AIDS Emergency Fund, the Stop AIDS Project, the Positive Resource Center, and Camp Sunburst for children of people with AIDS.

Throughout the years the 15 has mostly grown by word of mouth. New guests may attend events with a current member. Those who do not know a member may contact a party coordinator through the group's Web site. While novices are welcome, Rutkowski said the club is really geared toward men with some exposure to BDSM. After attending and working at a few parties, new men are eligible to be sponsored for membership.

"We're not a leather club from the 1980s breathing its last breath," said Fiske. "The traditional setting of the leather bar is not there anymore. Today, people meet online or at events. What we provide is a safe place, brotherhood, and support, and people still need that most of all." ▼

For more information about the 15 Association and its upcoming events, call the 15 Association events line at (415) 673-0452 or visit [www.the15association.org](http://www.the15association.org).

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## Specter of 'superbug' stalks retroviral confab

by Bob Roehr

The 12th annual retroviral conference opened in Boston, Tuesday February 22, against the background of news in New York City over the claims of discovering a significantly new and different version of HIV in a single individual. The conference is the premier annual gathering of the world's top HIV scientists.

A special session tonight (Thursday, February 24) will give Marty Markowitz, a leading researcher at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, the opportunity to present data on the unidentified New York patient. Other researchers will discuss broader issues of resistant virus.

The back-story to this is that Markowitz had submitted an outline of the data by the mid-January deadline for late-breaking presentations but the peer review committee did not accept it. The reasons for the decision are not clear, perhaps it was simply a numbers game, perhaps the committee has grown leery of data based upon a single patient, or perhaps they didn't see it as all that new.

After rejection by their peers, Markowitz and his mentor Dr. David Ho, who is the head of Aaron Diamond, decided to go the public route. They partnered with NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden in a highly visible news conference on February 11.

They revealed that a gay man in his mid-40s was diagnosed in December 2004 with a strain of HIV that is resistant to drugs in all three classes of therapy that make up most antiretroviral regimens. His T-cells fell rapidly to about 100 and he was diagnosed with AIDS in January.

The man acknowledged using

crystal methamphetamine and to having unprotected receptive anal sex with hundreds of partners, often while taking meth. He had previously tested negative for HIV and officials believe that he became infected some time in October.

The controversy centers around the uniqueness and importance of these events, both individually and together, and whether the virus is uniquely pernicious or the patient was uniquely vulnerable. Researchers are trying to get a better handle on the virus in the lab, while public health officials are trying to track down the man's sexual partners to see if there really is a unique viral menace spreading in the Big Apple.

Frieden has argued that from a public health perspective, he had to assume the worst and shout the alarm. Supporters have tended to come from similar public health backgrounds, while many community representatives and other researchers have criticized Frieden as an alarmist.

No one questions the integrity of Ho and Markowitz, or that they believe what they are saying about the "superbug." However, critics do point out some interlocking interests, generally unreported in the media, that may, or may not, constitute a conflict.

Ho sits on an advisory board to ViroLogic, one of only two companies that conducts drug resistance analysis of HIV, and has been compensated with stock in the firm. His brother Sidney works in ViroLogic's public relations department.

ViroLogic has not met sales expectations, and some have interpreted the news conference as an attempt to stimulate use of their testing services. The company issued a press release touting its HIV drug resistance testing ser-

vices soon after the February 11 press conference.

Meanwhile, Frieden has moved to create a registry of the viral load, CD4 count, therapeutic regimens, and drug resistance patterns of all of the estimated 50,000 people in New York City who are on an anti-HIV drug cocktail. He claims it is necessary to detect the emergence of drug resistant virus.

"We really don't have much of a sense of what treatment they are on, whether the treatment is appropriate, how they are doing, whether the viral loads are suppressed, how many of them have drug resistance to one or more classes of anti-retrovirals, whether that number and proportion have increased in recent years," he said in a February 16 article in the *New York Times*.

AIDS advocates are concerned with the civil liberties implications of such a registry, and they wonder where the money will come from to administer such a complex program. It seems to be modeled after a monitored treatment program for patients with active tuberculosis.

However, TB can be passed through the air, representing a classic infectious model, and justifies a direct, intrusive public health intervention. Transmission of HIV, absent criminal coercion such as rape, requires intimate contact and some degree of consent from the person who becomes infected.

One of the dangers of the type of registry that Frieden wants to create was demonstrated last week when an employee of the Palm Beach County Health Department in Florida inadvertently transmitted a confidential list of 4,500 people with AIDS and another 2,000 who are living with HIV to more than 800 county health workers. The matter is under investigation. ▼

# Gays react to secret Bush tapes

by Lisa Keen

In conversations recorded secretly by a friend before George W. Bush became president, Bush acknowledges that certain religious leaders wanted him to "attack homosexuals" but he refused, saying, among other things, that it was "bad for Republicans to be kicking gays."

Those quotes and others, published in the February 20 *New York Times*, indicate that, although Bush already opposed same-sex marriage and gays adopting children by the time he entered the White House in 2001, he had little enthusiasm for an antigay agenda promoted by right-wing religious groups. But the tapes also serve as a measure of how much Bush has changed, serving as a stark reminder of how quickly the president has responded to the demands of antigay activists in recent months.

The tape recordings were made available to the *Times* by Doug Wead, the author of an upcoming book, *The Raising of a President*. During his campaign, Bush sought advice from Wead, who had served as a special assistant to his father, President George H.W. Bush.

Wead said he recorded the conversations in anticipation of Bush becoming an important figure in history. He told the *Washington Post* that his book publisher insisted upon hearing the tapes for protection against any claim of libel and that he was subsequently contacted by the *Times* about the tapes.

The *Times* reported that Bush can be heard reading a report from an aide concerning a Christian Coalition convention: "This crowd uses gays as the enemy. It's hard to distinguish between fear of the homosexual political agenda and fear of homosexuality, however." Bush then remarked to Wead, "This is an issue I have been trying to downplay. I think it is bad for Republicans to be kicking gays."

In a conversation from 1998, the year the Hawaii Legislature passed a constitutional amendment that effectively banned same-sex marriage, then-Governor Bush told Wead he was against same-sex marriage.

"Gay marriage, I am against that," Bush said. "Special rights, I am against that."

Steven Fisher, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign, said he did not take



President Bush

any comfort in Bush's early reluctance to attack gays. Fisher said the comments just show that Bush "views us as a vulnerable group" and that his support for such things as the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage shows "he's willing to use us as a political football."

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman was in agreement.

"You measure an elected official by what they do, not what they say," said Foreman. "If his words were genuine, they underscore that President Bush will do anything for political gain. This is so much a part of this administration. They have this public face where they pretend to be compassionate — you think of George Bush as a compassionate guy. But his policies are so hurtful and divisive, it's almost irrelevant what he thinks because what he's done is the exact opposite of those statements. 'I don't want to kick gays,' but his administration has been 100 percent about kicking gay people."

Less than a month ago, Bush sidestepped questions about whether he would use his clout to lobby for a "gay marriage amendment," and said simply that "nothing will happen" on the amendment this congressional session because not enough senators believe such legislation is necessary. But two weeks later, following threats from the religious right, Bush reiterated his support for such an amendment in his State of the Union address.

Christopher Barron, political director for the Log Cabin Republicans, said his group hopes the president's second term "can reflect the sentiments that he expressed" in the recorded com-

ments before he entered the White House "and move away from some of the divisiveness we saw during the 2004 campaign."

According to the *Times* report, the tapes show Bush "repeatedly worried that prominent evangelical Christians would not like his refusal to 'kick gays.'" After meeting with a Texas televangelist James Robison — who once equated gays with child molesters — Bush told Wead: "I think he wants me to attack homosexuals," but added that he told Robison, "Look, James, I got to tell you two things right off the bat. One, I'm not going to kick gays, because I'm a sinner. How can I differentiate sin?"

Before his first term, there were mixed reports concerning Bush's willingness to hire gays in his administration. Some reports suggested he would, others suggested he would not. When Wead told Bush that one conservative supporter was quoting Bush as saying he would not hire gay people, Bush said, "No, what I said was, I wouldn't fire gays."

It is not clear from the reports whether Wead advised Bush on gay issues. As a special assistant to the first President Bush, Wead reportedly wrote a memo to conservatives criticizing the elder Bush administration for inviting gays to a bill signing ceremony. The *Post* noted that then-deputy chief of staff Andrew H. Card Jr. asked Wead to resign.

According to the reports, the tapes also include conversations in which Bush characterized then-U.S. Senator John Ashcroft as potentially a "very good Supreme Court pick." When Wead responded that Ashcroft's conservative religious views could elicit opposition to his appointment, noted the *Times*, Bush replied, "Well, tough."

The *Times* said Wead played only about a dozen conversations for the paper, claiming the others were repetitive or simply personal.

The news comes just days after reports revealed that Jeff Guckert, aka Jeff Gannon, a representative of a Web site run by a Texas Republican, was allowed to participate in numerous White House press briefings and a presidential press conference even though he was not from a legitimate news organization, did not use his real name, and created a porn site geared to gay men. ▼

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## Ark of Refuge

◀ page 17

port and social activities "coordinated to stabilize lives," said Houston. The goal is to transition them into housing and the Castro's Dimensions health clinic for youth.

Yato Yoshida leads the Ark's YouthMAP (Multimedia Arts Program) open lab where students create garage band digital music or write digital story-telling texts and mold figures, and shoot frames to create claymation films.

The students like to "visually engineer their own music," said Yoshida of the after-school labs for youth ranging in age from 6-18. "It's a good thing to get them acclimated to computers."

"It's more fun than most churches," said volunteer Hannah Ingrid-Neilson, 24, who attends Sunday services occasionally, and is one of the 25-30 women attending the weekly Transcendence support group.

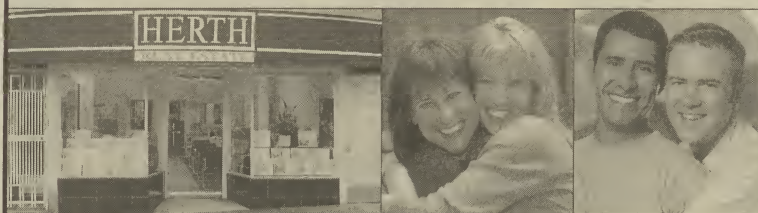
"The preaching is more enjoyable, more expressive," she said.

"Yvette Flunder has a clear and vital sense of vision, an understanding of what's needed," said Gast. "People are captivated by her articulation."

"Yvette Flunder is like the mother I never had," said Transcendence participant Deborah Colbert. "This is my family." ▼

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# PWAs and AB205

by Nikhil Unadkat and Michael Wolchansky

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear ALRP:

I am a 45-year-old HIV-positive man. My partner and I are longtime San Francisco residents and registered as domestic partners this past June. I understand that as of January 1, 2005, a new law (AB205) governing domestic partnerships took effect. Do we need to re-register as domestic partners? How will AB205 change our legal status? I've also heard that community property law now applies to us. Can you explain?

Sincerely,  
Confused in San Francisco

Dear Confused:

You are correct that a new law did take effect January 1, 2005, changing the law for domestic partnerships in California. AB205, short for Assembly Bill 205, is the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003. The act essentially granted domestic partners the same rights, benefits, duties and responsibilities possessed by married couples under California law.

AB205 is applied retroactively. For those registered as domestic partners prior to January 1, 2005,

what this means is that AB205 will govern the terms of your domestic partnership from the date it was first created. Since you and your partner registered as domestic partners in June 2004

(prior to January 1, 2005) you have automatically been afforded the new rights and responsibilities pursuant to AB205. So, you do not have to re-register.

For couples not previously registered as domestic partners, they must submit a domestic partnership form to the secretary of state. The form is available at [www.ss.ca.gov/dpregistry/](http://www.ss.ca.gov/dpregistry/) or may be retrieved from any local county registrar's office

or at any office of the California secretary of state.

Because AB205 made so many changes to domestic partnership law, there are several things that you should keep in mind.

First, AB205 only applies to California law. Because the federal government does not recognize domestic partner relationships, AB205 will not affect the rights of domestic partners pursuant to federal law. You should consult an attorney if you or your partner are not a U.S. citizen, in the military, or receiving public benefits (e.g., SSI, Medi-Cal).

It is also unlikely that other

states will recognize domestic partnership agreements under AB205. It is best to still execute a will, powers of attorney for healthcare and finance, and a written agreement detailing distribution of assets.

Third, under the new law, if you or your partner choose to terminate your domestic partnership it will most likely be necessary for you to undergo a court dissolution proceeding. As is the case for married couples seeking to terminate their marriage, in this proceeding the court will address issues relating to property, child custody, and child support.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP pro-

vides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This column is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Nikhil Unadkat is an ALRP outreach attorney; Michael Wolchansky is an ALRP law clerk. Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353. To find out more about ALRP visit [www.alrp.org](http://www.alrp.org).



ALRP Law

## New HIV strain

◀ page 5

Bowen of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. "[We] are certain that this test was not from a San Diego-area patient," she said late last week. There was no word from South San Francisco-based Virologic Laboratories, which performed resistance testing on the sample, on where the suspect case actually originated.

Likewise, two purportedly similar cases of new infection with multidrug-resistant HIV in British Columbia, originally reported in 2001, are significantly

different from the recently announced case in that the New York man's virus is more resistant and the two Canadian men remain in good health, according to Dr. Julio Montaner of the University of British Columbia.

In San Francisco, where the DPH has screened all new cases of HIV seen at City Clinic for drug resistance since the fall of 2003, about 12 percent have shown evidence of any drug resistance (within the range predicted by Blower), and about 4 percent have had HIV that is resistant to two drug classes, STD Prevention and Control Services Director Dr. Jeffrey Klausner told the B.A.R. last week. During this

period the clinic has not seen any cases of virus resistant to three drug classes.

Klausner said he hopes to expand resistance surveillance to Magnet and UCSF AIDS Health Project testing sites. Resistance testing is not mandated for new HIV infections detected at non-DPH hospitals or clinics, or by private physicians.

"Guidelines for resistance testing of new cases are in the formative stages," Magnet medical director Dr. Chris Hall said at Tuesday's forum. "Practice guidelines have to catch up with epidemiology."

Local test sites have seen a big jump in demand since the February 11 announcement. "When [New York] story broke, we had to turn people away," said Joanne Rinaldi of AHP.

"Demand for testing at Magnet has been incredible," Hall agreed. "This shows that gay men do care about their health."

Much of the discussion at the community meeting revealed a sense of anger that the New York case had been announced prematurely with too little concrete information and was being used to stigmatize sexually active gay men. Participants also complained that when researchers and public health officials make mistakes in their findings and predictions, they rarely issue corrections — much less apologies — to the community.

Contrary to predictions that HIV transmission in San Francisco would rise on the heels of an increase in syphilis among gay men, the number of new HIV infections has actually decreased in

recent years, noted forum panelist Mike Shriver. "But we're not hearing about that in the press."

"When numbers decline, [health officials] should offer positive strokes," longtime AIDS activist Michael Petrelis told the B.A.R. "We should ask for more money because prevention programs have been successful. When there is nothing but continued alarmism, the warnings get tuned out."

## The crystal connection

Use of crystal methamphetamine also received considerable attention at Tuesday's forum. In the New York City case, the patient was described as a heavy crystal user who had sex with a large number of partners. Dr. Grant Colfax of the DPH AIDS office recently told the *New York Times* that "[t]here seems to be something about methamphetamine that predisposes people to HIV infection" beyond the drug's influence on sexual behavior, suggesting that it might somehow suppress the immune system or increase HIV viral loads.

"During my campaign, many men shared stories of the impact crystal meth had on their lives and the lives of their friends," said District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who is working with Mayor Gavin Newsom and DPH to establish a working group to address the problem. "Crystal use is about how we see ourselves and how we relate to one another. We need to be a little more loving to each other." ▼

For the latest HIV news from the Department of Public Health, visit [www.sfhiv.org](http://www.sfhiv.org).

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## OBITUARIES

## Paul Andrew Grenchik



Grenchik, Paul Andrew, age 47, passed away at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, California on February 17th, 2005.

Much beloved son of Betty A. & George Caruso and survived by his brothers, John (Gail) Grenchik, Joseph C. (Rebecca) Grenchik, Mark (Carolyn) Grenchik, Steven (Sincha) Grenchik, Thomas J. Grenchik and sisters Jacqueline (Mark) Andrews, Patti Jo (Dennis) Banik, and Maureen (Kevin) Jennings. Also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews as well as grand nieces and grand nephews.

Paul was a successful antique dealer in Chicago, Key West, Miami Beach and San Francisco. Paul was loved by many dear friends. He also loved animals and was a good steward to mother earth.

Interment will take place in San

Francisco. Arrangements handled by the Arthur J. Sullivan & Co. Funeral Home in San Francisco, California. Call 415-621-4567. Condolences may be emailed to director@ArthurJSullivan.com

## Michael Layne Ulander



Michael Layne Ulander died February 26, 2004. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in comparative literature. Loving friends Tom Leffler,

Kip Turnquist, Ron Johnson, Dana Dean, Robin Moorad, MariAlice Grimes, and Mambo, his German Shepherd, survive him. A requiem mass celebrating his life was held at Grace Cathedral. Memorials in his name may be sent to Bayview Mission, c/o Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St., San Francisco, CA 94108; Attn: The Rev'd. Nina Pickrell.

## R. Martyn Jones

R. Martyn Jones, age 43, of San Francisco, died on February 7, 2005 in Suffolk, Virginia. He was a native of Norfolk, Virginia, a 1979 graduate of Great Bridge High School, and had worked as a Pharmacy Technician at Portsmouth General Hospital. He was predeceased by his partner, Rick May, and his father, Bobby Lee Jones, Sr. Survivors include his Grandmother, Bertie Jones of Norfolk, Virginia, and friends Holly Register of Suffolk, Virginia, and James Kirkpatrick of San Francisco, California.

Arrangements were handled by Sturtevant Funeral Home, Bennetts Creek Chapel, Portsmouth, Virginia.

## Yvain Reid

Yvain Reid died peacefully on the evening of December 26th, 2004.

Yvain moved to the Bay Area in the late '80s and attended San Francisco Art Institute. Mr. Reid vigorously studied writing, philosophy and performance art. He was active in the Radical Faerie community and was a staunch advocate for displaced gay youth. He fully em-

bodied the queer anarchist spirit of his age.

Yvain's art mirrored his life. To be fully engaged with him meant to experience confrontation, shock, frustration, exasperation, and lastly, resolution. One came away from the interaction with a clearer picture of what the world was and could be.

Yvain presented a gruff exterior. "I am like the shriveled-up black heart on my arm." Those who really knew him also knew that at his core, he was just the opposite. He was a truly caring individual. We miss him.

Mr. Reid is survived by the Widow Friday, Aunt Joey, Uncle Scott and offspring Miss Millie et al. A memorial will be held on Sunday, March 6th, 2005 at 4 p.m. at The Hole in the Wall bar on 8th St. at Folsom in San Francisco. Contact Christopher Friday for details at 415-255-8514.

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

# Medical marijuana activist Basile Gabriel dies in India

by Dennis Conkin

Basile Gabriel, a well-known figure in Bay Area medical marijuana, activist, and counterculture circles died February 5 while traveling in India. He was 53.

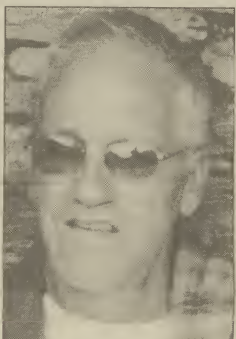
Mr. Gabriel, also known as Basile Hook, collapsed and died of cardiac arrest in Jaipur, Rajasthan, while waiting to rendezvous with friends.

"I was waiting with my uncle at the shop when the phone rang and it was a guy from another shop where Basile had collapsed," Vabs Bhate told Mr. Gabriel's friend in a long e-mail sent shortly after his death.

"We have lost a close friend," he wrote. "He lived life to the fullest and we enjoyed every minute of his company."

Mr. Gabriel was taken to a local hospital but efforts to revive him were not successful and he was pronounced dead on arrival. He was cremated according to strict Hindu funeral customs at the Adaih Naga Cemetery in Jaipur.

Because he was an American tourist, the US Embassy handled arrangements, including notifying next of kin. Mr. Gabriel had been in India for nearly two and a half years at the time of his death, according to his friend and erstwhile traveling partner David Smith.



Basile Gabriel

A lifelong traveler, as a youth Mr. Gabriel journeyed to Egypt in 1972 with the Grateful Dead for a series of rock and roll concerts and later lived and taught English in the Canary Islands for several years. He was an early communitarian and active in the Bay Area's network of communal household and intentional families, and was deeply active in Harmony House, a well know communal enterprise of the era.

"Basile wore a lot of hats," Smith recalled, "and he touched a lot of people from the time he arrived here as an 18-year-old hippie."

In the last decade, Mr. Gabriel was perhaps best known for his

medical marijuana advocacy - as a political organizer and strategist involved in getting Measure A, a Santa Cruz law enforcement directive, passed by voters.

He spent several years working with longtime friend Dennis Peron in Peron's former four-story medical marijuana emporium on Market Street.

Mr. Gabriel was on site when state Bureau of Narcotics agents raided the club with automatic rifles and warrants. His Santa Cruz home was also eventually raided by the agency.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 12, 1951, Mr. Gabriel was raised in North Miami, Florida. He moved to Ben Lomond, California in 1970. He attended the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in community studies, according to an obituary in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Mr. Gabriel is survived by his brothers, William Hook and Charles Hook; nieces Patricia Hook and Lauren Hook; and nephew Charles Hook.

A memorial service celebrating Mr. Gabriel and his life will be held Sunday, March 6 at 3:30 p.m. at Camp Campbell, 16275 Highway 9 in Boulder Creek. For more information contact Ginny Stone at (831) 338 2768 or Smith at

## Gay suicide

◀ page 13

actions taken by federal health officials to politicize science, including attempts to defund individual National Institutes of Health grants dealing with sexual health and the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

"Quite simply, the Human Rights Campaign believes that scientific and health decisions (such as determining the content of health conferences) should be left to scientists and health specialists, those individuals who are best equipped to make decisions about the merits and benefits of research," wrote Smith. "Federal government attempts to use funding to inject politics and ideology into science will only erode the integrity of the research system and undermine the faith of the public. The health and safety of our na-

tion depend on the free exchange of quality health research. Politics should never be put ahead of the life and death health needs of our nation's young people."

While SAMHSA officials partially backed away from their position after being publicly criticized, they did not explicitly make it clear that there was no bar to using GLBT references in SAMHSA-funded activities. As a result, Frank called Curie directly several times last week, urging him to issue a clear statement that the terms could be used.

On Thursday, February 17 Curie sent two e-mails to Frank stating "there is no policy on the use of the words lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, nor is there a prohibition on the use of the words." Curie went on to say in his e-mails that he will attend this weekend's conference and that he "will highlight in my remarks our commitment at

SAMHSA to ensure that we reach out to all populations in our efforts to provide substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment and mental health services."

Frank in return expressed his appreciation for the clarification offered by Curie.

"I am pleased that Mr. Curie was so cooperative and moved so quickly to repudiate the apparently erroneous earlier statements that SAMHSA policies bar the use of references to any of these terms," Frank said last Friday, February 18. "Given the fact that the frequency of youth suicide in particular is so much higher in the GLBT community, it would have sent terribly mixed signals to convene a panel discussion on suicide within that community and then refuse to even acknowledge the target audience. I appreciate the fact that the head of the agency took the necessary steps to correct the misinformation." ▼

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MAIL TO: Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103

# Blades on the water

by Jim Provenzano

The San Francisco Bay Blades are recruiting rowers this weekend and next month to expand their membership and show novices how rowing is a great form of exercise. They've also got a new coach, Bob Charbonneau.

"I was glad to do it. It's kind of a fun challenge for me," said Charbonneau, who started rowing over 20 years ago in Minneapolis. He had been the coach of Team Minnesota's rowing team, which competed in Amsterdam at Gay Games V.

After recently moving to the Bay Area, Charbonneau soon gravitated toward his former competing club. In 1998, he also rode in the double scull competition and won a silver medal.

"There was really a groundswell of support for the rowing in Amsterdam," said Charbonneau. "The interest sort of evaporated after Sydney elected not to add rowing [to Gay Games VI]. A few teams lingered on.

Some incorporated themselves into other rowing clubs."

Rowing has been included in the summer 2006 sports events at both Montreal's OutGames and Chicago's Gay Games VII.

"A lot of us are left with the decision of whether to go to one or both," said Charbonneau.

Despite the appeal of one event

or another for rowing clubs, conditions for their own

sport may take precedent. Charbonneau said that Montreal's former Olympic

court — 2000 meters in

length — is in better

condition than

Chicago's Lincoln

Park, which has a

750-meter rowing

canal. "Two-thousand

meters is the gold standard for

sprint racing," he added.

Until then, the Bay Blades,

which won medals in 1998, and

have since then trained seasonally

and competed in regattas at Long

Beach and Sacramento, have

gained new members, and new

training methods.

"It's my second go at this," said

Charbonneau. "We've got a great

pool of athletes. I think it's really



**Sports Complex**



The Bay Blades take to the waters on Lake Merritt

going to be a good opportunity."

For those who may not consider themselves competitive, rowing is one of the most complete full-body workouts with a low-impact, high-aerobic advantage. Ergonomic rowing on stationary machines provides a similar workout, and helps athletes gain balance and symmetry in their form.

"It's very low-impact, so people who have injuries from running or other sports can get into it and work around a lot of their injuries," said Charbonneau.

Age is not a limitation in rowing, either. Anyone over age 27, regardless of ability level, is classified as a master. "We have people in their 80s and 90s in the sport," Charbonneau said. "The perception is that it's all tall muscular rich boys."

Actually, the Blades are also seeking smaller women and men to take up coxswain duties, who are ideally around 140 pounds.

No matter their size, "we want to bring in a group of people who want to actually compete and get up on the medal stand," said Charbonneau. That includes former college rowers who may want to row again.

Despite the seeming simplicity of rowing, many forms of training are needed. Part of the Blades' new program, in addition to rowing at Lake Merritt, is the use of a special training barge at the Jack London Rowing Center in Oakland. Built like an outrigger, the barge has space for a coach to be on board and help rowers improve their form. It also gives novice rowers a chance to develop stroke methods before worrying about keeping

their balance on expensive and fragile equipment.

"Most rowing clubs operate on a shoestring," said Charbonneau of their investing in the barge and other training techniques. "I'm really excited about it; it'll be a better more, graduated method."

The spring season social and new member welcome will be held on Saturday, February 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Pilsner Inn, 225 Church Street, San Francisco. This will be an opportunity to casually drop by to meet club members and the new coach, learn about rowing, and sign up for the SFBB novice learn-to-row class being offered in March. Food will be served.

The spring season new member orientation will be held on Sunday, February 27 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lake Merritt Rowing Club, 1520 Lakeside Drive, just north of 14th Street in downtown Oakland — walking distance from the Lake Merritt BART station.

The program will include an introduction to the club and SFBB members and hands-on demonstrations at the boat house.

The novice learn-to-row class 2005 will be held March 12-13 and March 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. This class is intended for those with no prior rowing experience, at least a moderate level of fitness, and the ability to swim. Class size will be limited to 20 participants who will be accepted in the order in which completed applications are received. Upon completion of the class, participants will be eligible to experience rowing with the SFBB recreational rowers before deciding to join.

For more information about these events, go to [www.sfbay-blades.com](http://www.sfbay-blades.com) or e-mail [sfbb\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:sfbb_info@yahoo.com).

Read more columns at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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## EVENTS

### Riding bear

This Sunday, February 27, stop by the beer benefit at Daddy's bar, 440 Castro Street, from 4 to 8 p.m. to meet, greet, and help raise funds for Team Bear, one of many groups of cyclists who will be participating in the upcoming AIDS LifeCycle fundraising ride. For more info on the hirsute hunks who ride for charity, visit [www.teambear.org](http://www.teambear.org).

### In the cards

SF Frontrunners held a poker night fundraiser this past Wednesday. It's one of four such events they'll be holding to raise funds for athletes planning on competing in Chicago's Gay Games VII. For info on upcoming events, visit [www.sffrontrunners.org](http://www.sffrontrunners.org).

## Marriage group

◀ page 15

to join the fight for marriage equality but not know how. This is a very conservative, church-going town, so a drag show wouldn't do much good. But there are a lot of people here with gay and lesbian children, which is another avenue for activism. It just doesn't look like the one in San Francisco."

A city of 12,500, Auburn is 35 miles northeast of Sacramento.

Adams and her partner have been reaching out to neighboring towns and counties, identifying more chapter leaders willing to join the fight. The environment they described — an area where gays and lesbians often stay closeted rather than risk serious repercussions — is less than three hours away, but exists in stark contrast to the more accepting Bay Area.

"In Amador, a city with a population of 150, we found someone willing to be a chapter leader. She showed us the bullet holes where

her inn had been shot at because she's gay, and she was willing to step forward and help," said Adams.

Other leaders traveling around cities in the Central Valley have reported similar social conditions, and varying success with outreach efforts. Bakersfield resident Whitney Weddell has organized discussion meetings with gays and lesbians in Kings and Merced counties, but said that despite early interest, attendance has often been sparse.

"There's a definite sense that to people in the Bay Area, Bakersfield is nowhere near as welcoming of gays and lesbians as San Francisco, or West Hollywood," said Weddell. "What has surprised me is that to people in California City, Bakersfield looks like West Hollywood ... in Ridgecrest people were afraid to park their cars in the same lot as us, for fear of losing their jobs."

"These people live in fear every day. They don't want to talk about marriage equality, they want to talk about living, surviving. We're talking about going to the moon, and they're in a rowboat," added

Weddell.

Still, activists believe that achieving marriage equality will help break down the stigma faced by gays and lesbians living in small, predominantly homophobic communities. They feel marriage equality will help deal a blow to other forms of discrimination in society, making it difficult for employers and the military to actively discriminate against gays and lesbians.

"You can't send a team from San Francisco to California City and expect people to feel better — or even meet with you," said Weddell. "The issue is much more ingrained than that. But you can support marriage equality with more fervor, because it's not just about whether or not to get married — it breaks down into so many other issues, like basic human respect." ▼

**Get Engaged events and volunteer opportunities are listed on the group's Web site at [www.marriageequalityca.org](http://www.marriageequalityca.org) or by calling (415) 581-0803.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Newsom

◀ page 14

courage tourists to come here and enjoy the city."

Becerra said the new gay-themed tourist campaign should be viewed separately from the current labor fight. It stems back to a year and a half ago when gay business leaders questioned the lack of a gay focused tourist effort by the city's convention and visitors bureau and set out to create their own.

"Our focus on this campaign is to drive business here to San Francisco. We are hoping the dispute will be resolved as quickly as possible, but we can't stop a campaign to bring business to this city and wait for this issue to be resolved," Becerra said. "Otherwise, people will make other plans and choose to spend their money somewhere else. Our agenda really has nothing to do with this dispute."

Newsom said he views the latest tussle from both sides as more posturing for the public's support and is confident a solution will be found.

"I feel we are getting close to an end," said Newsom, adding a meeting with the mediator to settle the dispute would be taking place in a couple of days. "I encourage both sides to keep talking. They both know where they need to be, it is just a matter of time. What you are seeing right now is flexing of muscles on both sides."

As for the *Examiner* piece, Newsom said "I was dumbfounded by it." Reading it, he said "I sat there insulted. If anyone knows my passion for this job they know of my proactive commitment. I guess they were just upset with the *Chronicle* giving me too many headlines."

He ticked off a list of recent accomplishments, including new numbers showing a drop in homeless deaths on the city's streets, his involvement in the labor negotiations with the hotels, and the city's pushing more residents to claim a local income tax credit as well as implementing midyear budget cuts to address the city's financial woes as proof he is a hands-on mayor.

On a national level, Newsom's relationship with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is about to get even worse. It began with Newsom's very public lambasting of Bloomberg's decision to appeal a recent court ruling in favor of gay marriage despite his personal support for granting gay couples the right to wed. Now, Newsom wants the United Nations to pull out of Manhattan and call San Francisco home.

"We are sending a letter to the U.N. asking them to move their headquarters to San Francisco. They'd be much more comfortable here," said Newsom, citing the international organization's ongoing squabbles with Bloomberg's administration over a remodel of its current building.

The mayor's feud with members of his own Democratic Party, who blamed his marrying same-sex couples for the party's defeat last November, shows no signs of cooling off either. He cautioned Democrats not to become a "me too party" or a "Republican-lite" party as they prepare for the 2006 midterm elections.

"The president and the Republicans hardly have a mandate," he said of the November election results. "We need to learn from our mistakes, our capitulation. We were elected for our values, we need to remember that." ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Mayor's Office of Community Development is pleased to announce the availability of a supplemental Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2005-06 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This RFP is specifically for planning, facilities, and public services, with an emphasis on low-income neighborhoods in the southeast sector. The RFP will be available only online beginning February 10, 2005. Proposals will be due by 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2005. For more detailed information on the RFP and how to apply, please see MODC's website at [www.sfgov.org/modc](http://www.sfgov.org/modc).

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR:

## PHLEBOTOMY SERVICES TO OBTAIN BLOOD EVIDENCE

It is the intention of the San Francisco Police Department to contract with a qualified Phlebotomy Service Company to provide on site blood draw services on arrested and incarcerated individuals of the San Francisco Police Department, and any other allied State or Federal Law Enforcement Agency, including but not limited to the California Highway Patrol, College of University Police, Performing Law Enforcement duties within the City and County of San Francisco. Services will be provided at designated sites, including: The Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, Mission Police Station, 630 Valencia Street, and San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Ave.

Contractor must only provide Phlebotomists that are certified by the California State Department of Health Services.

Contractor will be required to provide these services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Deadline for Submission of written questions or requests for clarification: March 1st, 2005.

Proposals Due: March 22nd, 2005

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, contact Officer Shawn Wallace at 415-553-1096.

**2092 CONTRACT COMPLIANCE OFFICER I - SALARY: \$62,270 - \$75,660 Annually + Benefits.** The CCOF Office of Labor Standards Enforcement is seeking qualified Cantonese-speaking candidates to enforce Minimum Compensation and Health Care Accountability Ordinances. Qualifications: Equivalent of 2 years college + 4 years of exp. monitoring contracts, contract compliance, promoting EEO. To obtain application materials and requirements, visit our Website at: [www.sfgov.org/dhr](http://www.sfgov.org/dhr). APPLY BY NOON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2005. City application and supplemental application required. Phone: (415) 554-4859, TTY (415) 554-7492. EEO/AA/People with Disabilities (PWD).

## VACANCY NOTICES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board's web site at [www.sfgov.org/site/uploads/bdsuprvs/Vacancy\\_Notices/vacancy\\_app.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploads/bdsuprvs/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf) or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, City Hall, Room 244, SF, CA 94102. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of SF, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: [www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs](http://www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs)

Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Task Force are still available, please call the Rules Clerk at 554-5184.

## Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

Vacant seat, succeeding Isabel Wade, resigned, seat 5, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from list of organizations listed in Res. 168-01, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending 2/1/06.

Vacant seat, succeeding Erica Gabrielsen, resigned, seat 6, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from District 2, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending 2/1/07.

Vacant seat, succeeding Laura Bowlby, resigned, seat 14 must be nominee of District 1 Supervisor from District 1, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending 2/1/07.

Vacant seat, succeeding Catherine Rauscher, seat 19, must be nominee of District 5 Supervisor from list of organizations listed in Res. 168-01, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending 2/1/06.

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282343-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: B & S Crane & Erection Service, Inc. 1939 45th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Susan Wanless. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/25/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282379-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cadum, 345 12th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118-2108. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel Catala. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282218-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Professional Resources, 332 Pine St. Suite 307 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Ted Ammirio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/31/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/19/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282415-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vitalane Creative Design, 39 Boardman Place #104 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Juancho Vitangol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/31/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/27/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Patio Apartments, 8 Byron Ct. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Cesar G. Agudelo Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/27/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/27/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282383-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Pickled Hutch, 1605 Church St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lisa Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005



## STATEMENT FILE A-0282295-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eliza's Restaurant, 2877 California St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tran Thy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/16/99. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282555-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zoom and Look, 3844 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Lance Evans. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282558-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cinematic Xpressions, 1261 Broderick St., Ste. 101, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Stephen Jang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282562-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Affordable Mortgages, 630 Grand View Ave. #208, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gurinder Kang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282086-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: PeaBrain, 1292 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Whitney Rader. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/13/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282617-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: InfoNuggets, 821 York St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Stephanie J. Pappas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/3/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282672-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: SNSN/Sign-N-Seal Notary Service, 3321 19th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed JoAnne J. Maldonado. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/4/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282375-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Georgina Acosta Wedspa, 940 Bush St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Mina Coyota. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/26/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282499-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Spencer and Company, LLC, 491 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Dennis E. Spencer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/31/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/31/05. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

## OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280400

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Spencer and Company located at 491 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Dennis Edward Spencer. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/01/04. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

## OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #273451

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Speed Pro Towing Inc., located at 251 Capo St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Raul Oropeza. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/06/04. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

## OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #AB0269833

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Allfix Handy located at 56 Seville St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Alberto Benarinos. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/10/03. FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282296-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eliza's Restaurant, 1457 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tran Thy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/25/93. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS



On February 14, 2005, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the San Francisco Mayor's Community Support Fund. The purpose of the Community Court Fund is to support enrichment projects that will enhance public safety and the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Eligibility is limited to neighborhood community-based organizations with documented non-profit 501(c)(3) status that are located and/or provide services in Bayview Hunters Point, Taraval/OMI, Mission, South of Market, Tenderloin, Excelsior/Ingleside, Western Addition, Polk Street, North Beach, Richmond, Sunset and Chinatown. Potential applicants that do not have a community court in their neighborhood may still apply for enrichment projects in their neighborhood. The RFP and Fund Guidelines will be available for download at: [www.sfgov.org/mocj](http://www.sfgov.org/mocj).

Select the Request for Proposal tab. The RFP and Fund Guidelines will also be available in hard copy at:

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 496  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
For more information call 415.554.6515.

Applications must be hand-delivered to the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4th. No late applications will be accepted. 02/24/2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282603-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cyberbars, 3435 Cesar Chavez #206, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed David Green. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9/12/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/2/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282363-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gymboree Play and Music, 1525 Sloat Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Agnes Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/25/05. FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282403-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bark n' Bun, 1650 Holloway Ave. #6 San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Karim Salgado. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282886-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Can-Cun Restaurant, 2288 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/6/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005



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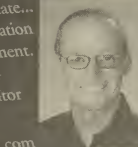
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282887-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Can-  
Cun Restaurant #1, 1003 Market St. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a  
corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on 6/6/00.  
The statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/00.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282885-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Taqueria Can-Cun #3, 3211 Mission St. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a  
corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/00.  
The statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/00.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282830-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
LittleBIG Productions 2)Pervity.com, 4226 18th St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted  
by a corporation, signed Kristen Alice Imler. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact business under  
the above listed fictitious business name or names  
on 2/9/05. The statement was filed with the City  
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/9/05.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282720-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Steve Justrich Interior Design, 819 14th St. #5  
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted  
by an individual, signed Steven A. Justrich. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact business under  
the above listed fictitious business name or names  
on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City  
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282799-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
1)Big Muscle Media 2)Do I Have 3)What's In  
My Closet 4)AB Software 5)Bigmuscle 6)Big  
Muscle bears 7)Normal Gay 8)Bearssoft, 156  
Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This  
business is conducted by a limited liability company,  
signed William J. Sanderson. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05.  
The statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/9/05.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282762-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
1)North Beach Models 2) North Beach Model &  
Talent 3)Henri Afrika 4)Rockier Guitars 5)Bay  
Arts & Music, 1350 Howard St. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an in-  
dividual, signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on N/A.  
The statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/08/05.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282754-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Xin Li Electric, 2567 43rd Ave. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an  
individual, signed Xin Nue Li. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on  
5/28/96. The statement was filed with the City  
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282910-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Phood Consulting, 3296 22nd St. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an  
individual, signed Peter Hood. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on  
3/31/00. The statement was filed with the City  
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05.  
**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0282959-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Ramon Campos DBA Jan-Pro, 1264 Fitzgerald Ave. San  
Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted  
by an individual, signed Ramon Campos-Ceja. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact business under  
the above listed fictitious business name or names  
on 2/15/05. The statement was filed with the City  
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**FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

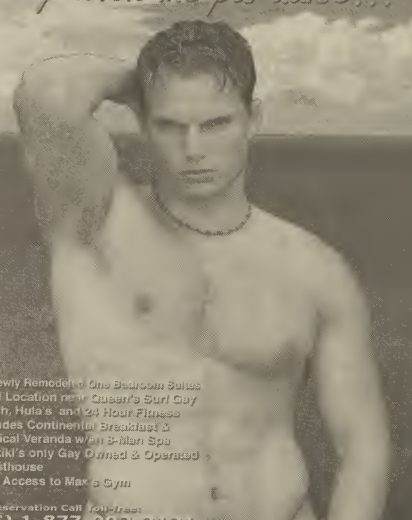
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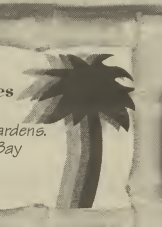
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## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #263178

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as 1) Bearsoft 2) Norridgegy.com 3) Aaveragegy.com at 156 Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed William J. Sanderson. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/02 FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #263147

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as 1) Big Muscle 2) Big Muscle bears 3) Big Muscle Media at 156 Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Andrew J. Wysocki. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/02 FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #240007

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as AB Software at 156 Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Andrew J. Wysocki. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/12/00. FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541805

In the matter of the application of Scott Theodor Elshish for change of name. The application of Scott Theodor Elshish for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Scott Theodor Elshish has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nicholas Theodor Elshish. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. FEB. 17, 24, MAR. 3, 10 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282969-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Yvonne Frazier Consulting, 2330 48th Ave. #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Yvonne Frazier. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: GPZ Electric, 494 9th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed James T. Duncan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0283012-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Christian Horan Photography, 478 Duboce Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christian Horan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/16/05. FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282951-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Claire's Gourmet House, 3641 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Jian Dong Tao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/00. FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280160

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Gold Center & Imports located at 888 Brannan St. # 152, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by an individual signed Anosh Kaspasian. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/04 FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

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page 36

Imperials on parade  
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Donna Sachet' reports.  
page 43



Poetry in lock-up  
Early Williams prison  
drama at Theatre Rhino.  
page 31



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 8 • 24 February 2005

## Last but not least, the Oscars

Finale to film-awards season is always the best

by Matthew Kennedy

**2004** wasn't a half-bad year at the movies. A few titles of real distinction emerged, some Oscar-blessed, some not. Two beauties, *Kinsey* and *Being Julia*, were insulted with one nod each. *The Aviator* was overburdened with 11. *Finding Neverland*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *Vera Drake*, *Hotel Rwanda* — the year's best were marked by unusually strong performances dedicated to worthy subjects. Even so, we're suffering from awards glut. Even with nominations moved up to January and awards moved to February, Oscar is the caboose of a very long train. It's pulling the rear after directors, producers, writers, and screen actors guilds, critics, Golden Globes, People's Choice, festivals, and every columnist with an opinion chimed in with their picks. Even so, the banality of so many awards and so much punditry has failed to impact Oscar's narcotic appeal. We devout stumble back every spring for our fix. Oscar is the big ticket, the movie prize of prizes.

### Best Supporting Actor: Boxing for the best

Morgan Freeman of *Million Dollar Baby* has such gifts: that low, rich voice and downcast face have bettered dozens of movies. Now may be the time to thank him for being reliably good for so long. Thomas Haden Church of *Sideways* is easy to laugh at because director-screenwriter Alexander Payne draws him as a scabrous, Id-driven dork. Alan Alda's bellicose senator in *The Aviator* isn't a role that tested his well-established abilities to blow steam. Clive Owen as the miserable, damaged Larry in *Closer* offers a textbook study in how not to seduce. As the unlucky hack of *Collateral*, Jamie Foxx has the advantage of playing the

page 40 ►

## Silver and gold: The Academy of Friends Gala turns 25

by Adam Sandel

As the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences hands out its prized gold statuettes on Sunday night, the Academy of Friends will celebrate 25 years of raising money for Bay Area HIV/AIDS organizations with its annual Oscar-night Gala.

Several renowned designers and a small army of volunteers will transform the Fort Mason Festival Pavilion into a silver palace, ranging in styles from the decadent French opulence of King Louis XIV to a gleaming, industrial, futuristic world.

"We're one of the longest-running HIV/AIDS organizations in the country," says Gala Chair Jeff Van Leuven. "For our 25th anniversary, we wanted to do a party drenched in silver, and calling it *Nuit d'Argent* ('Night of Silver') seemed romantic."

An eight-year AOF veteran, Van Leuven has served on the Board for six years, and this is his third year as Gala Production Chair. "I have a very fortunate role being the hub of communication, and in my third year, the learning curve has gone away, so I really enjoy it," he says. "The month before is such a crunch time, but when the Gala actually happens, you don't want it to end."

In its 25 years, the organization (which was started by Kyle Ozier as a small Oscar party with friends) has raised \$5 million for more than 60 organizations. In honor of the silver anniversary, 150 emeritus board members have been invited, and AOF founder Ozier and Nancy Pelosi have been named Honorary Gala Chairs.

As guests enter the Pavilion, they will pass through the opulent French designs of Gregg Gordon Solem, who is in his second year on the AOF Board and Gala Production Committee.

Solem enjoys the challenge of coordinating with the other volunteer de-

page 40 ►



Oscar-painted models line up at a previous Academy of Friends gala.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

# We hear gay Americans singing

*At the Statehouse, the White House, Bart's house, and our house*

by Roberto Friedman

What a past few weeks it's been to be a gay American! Apparently, all you need to get press-credentialed into the White House briefing room these days is a display ad and hot pic on [HotMilitarystud.com](http://HotMilitarystud.com). How else to explain how the "**Jeff Gannon**" was ushered into the White House press corps? The conservative wire-service he supposedly wrote for, "Talon" (a play of words on Salon?) doesn't really exist. "AKA Gannon" (real name, **James Guckert**), exposed as a GOP operative, was only there to lob softball questions at Bushies. We guess whoever vetted his press pass liked the piquant way he posed in the nude for sites like [Militaryescorts.com](http://Militaryescorts.com).

So Guckert could attend all the power press conferences he wanted — when he wasn't busy on an outcall. The Administration doesn't much care for gays in the military, but gays in the military-fetish scene are apparently A-OK. A-OK, *what?* A-OK, *sir!*

Gays are everywhere in the media, from Marge's sis, **Patty Bouvier**, coming out on *The Simpsons*, to the hot gay gardener on *Desperate Housewives* (see yummy below).

Newly-minted cutiepie celeb  
**Maya Marcel-Keyes**, 19-year-

old daughter of conservative pundit **Alan Keyes**, made her debut appearance as a gay activist at a Valentine Day's rally in front of the Maryland State House in quaint old Annapolis, MD.

Only last summer, Marcel-  
Keyes' father, his carpetbagging  
campaign for Illinois Senate seen  
crashing and burning, called Vice  
President **Dick Cheney's** lesbian  
daughter "a sinner," and  
said homosexuality was  
"selfish hedonism."  
Marcel-Keyes re-  
vealed her parents  
have thrown her out  
of the house, stopped  
speaking to her, and re-  
fused to pay for college,  
all because she is gay.

here

And as far as beleaguered pop star **Michael Jackson** allegedly bleaching his penis until it resembled a stripey barber's pole, as per the 1,903-page Jackson trial indictment leaked last week to *The Smoking Gun*, Out There is not going to touch that item with a 10-foot, non-stripey fishin' pole.

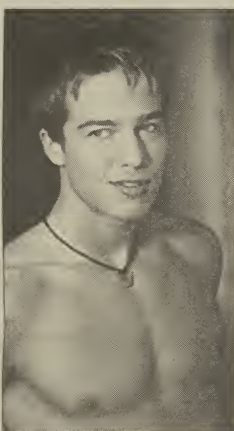
But who says playing gay is not a good career move? *Desperate Housewives* fans will have noticed a familiar face (and more) in **Gabrielle's** hot new gardener, who tearfully begs to fuck her because he thinks he's gay, then is seen romping naked in the pool with **Bree's** teen son. It's none other than dreamy **Ryan Carnes**, who was discovered in the gay



## Out There



Marge Simpson's sister Patty Bouvier (right) came out last Sunday.



*Desperate for Ryan Carnes.*

indie flick *Eating Out* (premiering at the Castro March 18.) Those with certain tastes can feast on young Ryan's family jewels and tasty buns as he goes full-frontal and does the dirty dog. Can't see that on TV, and OT says it sounds most appetizing!

**Get out!**

Dear Out There, Why aren't you going to opening parties, scoping out who was there and what they were wearing, stampeding the buffet table, overdrinking and leaving your overcoat behind, then reporting on the festivities in clever **boldface** items? Seems not that long ago you were into your "gin period," when a bartender could stick an olive in you and call you **Martino**. Always thought of ya as a Professional Party Person, but now I dunno. Signed, **Celeb-Seeking Reader**.

Dear CSR, It's true, there was a time when we were ever-so responsive to the generous impulses of village publicists, who really are quite sweet about inviting us to theater openings, musicales and the best entertainments in town. It's only right that OT should attend what we can when we can, in the interests of being the best-informed section editors we can be. Of course, we all know there are some devoted columnists around who will go to the opening of an envelope, and bless their hardy souls!

But there comes a day, CSR, after weeks of opening nights, when all one wants to do is sit on a bench in Golden Gate Park and watch the model yachts at race in the pond. "Hey sailor, wanna see our press clippings?" Or just have a cup of tea with lemon, tuck into beddy-by early with a rollicking good literary novel.

Who are we kidding, we're more out than in. But it was sure fun to be out as someone else's "plus-one" for a change when *BAR* columnist **John F. Karr** invited us along to the opening night of **Lisa Kron's** *Well for ACT* at the Geary Theatre. Why? 1) Because he is so Karrismatic, and 2) because of his deep roots in the city's theater soil, we knew being out and about with him would be quite the social whirl.

Whirl we did. At the cast's afterparty in the SF Hilton's glamorous top-room in the sky **Cityscape**, we hatched the plan of grabbing a table by the floor-to-ceiling windows with the wrap-around view, and letting the stars of stage and screen come *to us*. It was a strategy with pay-off, including a visit from Obie Award-winning actress **Jayne Houdyshell**. So nice to see her glammed up in chic fashion and makeup after her utterly convincing turn as Kron's dowdy, dumpy "mother." She's already onstage, "asleem" in her easy chair, before

the play begins, which Houdyshell told us was difficult to do, go from such a sleepy position to full-on performance, and necessitates a pre-show nap so she doesn't fall asleep in the chair!

But which dapper acting **Rapp** brother was seen busily scribbling away in a notepad like a real society reporter, **Anthony or Adam**, while getting sound-bites a-plenty? Not the one who did the one-Rapp show, the *Rent* Rapp, we think that Rapp's Anthony. See how rusty we are at all this? Rapp, we bet in contrast, was hot on the trail

But show-biz can be an edifying beat, that's this week's lesson. A few nights after the *Well* opening, writer/performer **Tim Miller** presented original-cast albums of Broadway musicals as his salvation when he was a young queer boy, in his powerful *Us* at the YBCA Forum. "Who needs **Marx** and **Engels** when you have **Rodgers** and **Hammerstein**?" he asked, we think rhetorically. At last, some boldface names with punch.

### Makes scents

They called him **Flipper**: "Homosexual Dolphin Has Highly Developed Sense of Gay-Nar," informs *The Onion*.

Correction of the week, from last Saturday's *New York Times*: "An article yesterday about a judge's order halting New York State's denial of driver's licenses for noncitizens who lack Social Security cards misstated the surname of the judge. She is **Karen S. Smith**, an acting justice of the State Supreme Court, not **Karen Black**." Rats, and we were going to ask her to sing a few numbers from *Nashville*!

Second best correction, from last Sunday's *Times*: "An article on Feb. 13 about a family vacation in the South Beach area of Miami Beach misspelled the name of a musician whose songs were performed in a restaurant. He is **Jimmy Buffett**, not Buffet." But it was all-you-can-eat.



Cumming wants to spray you.

Finally, in case you want to know the true cost of cumming, these day's it's exactly \$69. That's what "Cumming, the Fragrance" *eau de toilette* in a 3.4 oz.-spray bottle retails for on [beautyhabit.com](http://beautyhabit.com). It's the new scent marketed by brilliant bisexual actor **Alan Cumming**. If you need the complete works, there's also "Cumming All Over" moisturizer and "Cumming Clean" body wash. We don't know why, but we feel like we need to go home and take a shower now.

RIP **Sandra Dee, John Raitt, Hunter S. Thompson.** Who will be left to fight the forces of evil? ▼

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## THEATRE

# Prison scandal in early Williams drama

'Not About Nightingales' set in the lock-up at Theatre Rhinoceros

by Richard Dodds

The chronological distance between *Not About Nightingales* and *The Glass Menagerie* is only six years, but it might as well be 60 or 600 as far as playwriting style is concerned. Loud, angry, brutal, and spiked with social outrage, *Nightingales* would be unrecognizable as a Tennessee Williams play except for the poetic strands that still emerge even in the harsh prison surroundings.

When the sounds of a dance band aboard a passing tourboat filter into the island prison, and the warden's secretary and a trustee can fleetingly respond, we could be in the Wingfield apartment in *The Glass Menagerie*, where sounds from the Paradise Dance Hall provide Laura and the Gentleman Caller the background music for their brief dance.

Williams wrote *Nightingales* in 1938, and when plans to produce it fell apart, it remained unseen until 1998, when Vanessa Redgrave helped spur a London production that was followed by its Broadway premiere the following year. In New York, the play was extravagantly produced on the vast, in-the-round stage of Circle in the Square, so it was something of a surprise when Theatre Rhino announced it would be presenting it in its cramped Studio space.

There is another surprise when you enter the Studio, which has been stripped back to its walls to create a playing space in the middle of the room around which the audience now is seated. With its low ceiling and exposed pipes, not to mention a musty odor, the Studio turns out to be an ideal place for this compact, atmospheric production of *Nightingales*.

Williams based his play on an actual prison scandal in which several inmates perished while being punished in a heat chamber for staging a hunger strike. In the play, between scenes of prisoners conspiring to protest the monotony of the food, we watch as the young secretary and the privileged prisoner sneak moments of affection when the sadistic, corrupt warden is away.

Director John Fisher, who plays the warden with a scary mania, doesn't let the small space hamper a swashbuckling intensity. Only in the second act, in repeated scenes of prisoners locked in the furnace room dubbed Klondike, does the production begin to falter. There's not a lot of dramatic variation available in characters writhing in agony as steam pours from vents built into the floor of Erik Flatmo's set.

The large cast is confidently in step with Fisher's approach, including Peter Caslavsky as the sensitive trustee, Cheree A. Sager as the not-so-naïve secretary, David Bicha as the prisoners' angry



The cast of *Nightingales* under the low ceiling and exposed pipes in Theatre Rhino's stripped-back Studio space.

leader, Floriana Alessandria as a romantic apparition, Paul A. Hammonds as a sissy prisoner dubbed the Queen, and Philip Jones, who gives heart to an archetypal black character of the era.

This West Coast premiere of *Not About Nightingales* provides a theatrical experience that will not soon be duplicated. Just about everyone has a ringside seat to this dramatic dam-burst of a play.

**Not About Nightingales will run in the Studio at Theatre Rhino through March 13. Tickets are \$15 - \$25. Call 861-5079 or go to [therhino.org](http://therhino.org).**

## Plays 'Well' with others

Lisa Kron & co. thrive at the Geary

by Richard Dodds

When we feel empathy, it is very often a patch job. That may well be the nub of Lisa Kron's message in *Well*, her thoughtful and entertaining play at the Geary Theatre.

"Judaism, you know, is viewed in the Midwest as a kind of accessory that you can wear on top of your Christianity," says Kron, who was a rare Jew in her Michigan neighborhood.

Kron's mother, until she spent a summer as a teen living with a black family in the segregated South, thought that "being black was just like being white, only you were also black."

And then there's the matter of health. At an allergy unit, Kron meets a chronically ill patient who says, "People who are healthy think they know how you could get better because when they imagine what their life is like, they imagine having your sickness on top of their health."

Kron's mother happens to be one of those sick people, and as we enter the theater she is already ensconced in the recliner where she spends most of her days. Ann Kron invokes a catchall diagnosis of "allergies" to explain her maladies, and, as a girl, Lisa was well on her way to a life of similar disability. When she finds herself cured after moving away, it sets up a conflict that finds its showdown in the course of the play.

But *Well*, seen off-Broadway last year, isn't any ordinary play.



Kron cedes audience affection to her mother, played by Jayne Houdyshell.

Kron, a member of the Five Lesbian Brothers, is best known for her solo dramas. In *Well*, she allows other characters on stage with her, and in a wonderful *coup de theatre*, she finds that she can't control them. Even her mother undermines the theatrical conventions that Kron has always depended upon to tell her stories.

Kron is a sharp, confident performer, but she cedes the audience's affection to her mother, especially as embodied by the effortlessly charismatic Jayne Houdyshell. Despite her physical miseries, we find that Ann Kron as a community organizer was able

to help "heal" her Lansing neighborhood when threatened with racial division.

A quartet of actors perform a variety of other characters in flashbacks, but they grow weary of Kron's slipping control over her memories, and stage a rebellion. Even Houdyshell eventually abandons her role, leaving Kron alone on stage as she finally comes to grip with the egotism of her empathy.

**Well will run at the Geary Theatre through March 13. Tickets are \$15-\$68. Call 749-2228 or go to [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org).**

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# Why not take all of her?

## Veronica Klaus offers 'Family Jewels'

by Richard Dodds

There's a fine line between natural and real, Veronica Klaus tells us, and *Family Jewels* is her account of the journey across it. Though no longer encased in the body that nature provided, Klaus nevertheless feels more real thanks to surgical inter-

vention.

But she still has a big instrument. Near the end of her one-woman show at the Exit Theatre, Klaus hauls out a tuba, which the boy of her past once played back in Indiana, to honk out a refrain of "All of Me." It's a delicious moment that is at once incongruous, absurd, sweet, and somehow perfect.

In fact, this kind of invention runs throughout the two-act play that Klaus co-authored with director Jeffrey Hartgraves and is produced by SteinBeck Presents. It's also the way the show, subtitled *The Making of Veronica Klaus*, continually rights itself when teetering on the brink of teary bathos or raunchy burlesque. It may be just a sound cue, a prop, or a light change that brings us back from the edge.

For those not quite sure who Veronica Klaus is, a Vegas-style announcer opens the show with names of the venues the chanteuse has performed and awards she has won in the Bay Area. "It's a small pond," Klaus says upon arriving on Topher Busenberg's attractively cluttered set, "but you have to admit I'm a big fish."

And for those unsure what "chanteuse" means, she explains, "It's French for 'singing lady.'"

Klaus is indeed a legitimate singer, with a small but evocative voice used here mainly to provide her life history with bittersweet accents. Janis Ian, Joni Mitchell, Leon Russell, and Nina Simone are among the unexpected musical sources, and Klaus also provides several effective ballads of her own creation.

The story, when not on a curlicue detour, basically takes a chronological approach to Klaus's journey that began in rural Indiana. "I won't tell you my real name," she says. "That other person is more of the illusion."

There are both predictable and unexpected adventures, including a dreaded stepmother, a stint as a puppeteer with a Christian evangelical group, and finally *The Operation* and its various ramifications.



Klaus reinvented herself as a self-styled chanteuse, pardon our French.

tions. At times, clichés can take over ("Home isn't always a place. It's a feeling."), but the piece can also acknowledge when this is happening ("Places for the requisite teenage-angst scene," says an offstage voice).

The "be yourself" message of the show is nothing new, but it feels richer when the journey to get there requires measures most

of us never have to contemplate. Klaus acknowledges this. "We are all unique," she says. "Even the bland people." ▼

**Family Jewels: The Making of Veronica Klaus** will run at the Exit Theatre through March 12. Tickets are \$20. Call 820-1565 or go to [steinbeckpresents.org](http://steinbeckpresents.org).

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# Once more with feeling

## Mahler songs refined by fire, out on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Nothing in Pierre Boulez's Mahler cycle so far has been as illuminating and beautiful as his new CD of the orchestral *Lieder* (DG), part of a package of CDs recognizing the gay maestro's 80th birthday. For a conductor who, in his first 40 years, wouldn't have seemed a natural for Mahler, Boulez in the second half of life has turned into one of the greatest of Mahlerians.

What's bridged the gap is the ever-young but increasingly wise revolutionary impulse in the French composer-conductor. The former firebrand, whose effect on everything he touched felt cauterizing (when it "felt" at all), has turned his refining fire toward a sonic scouring of the composer's dense scores, with feeling. Like the cleaning of old canvases, the clarification of colors and textures that has characterized his Mahler has been startling in its scrupulous homage to a fellow composer-conductor (a long, deep French tradition). Boulez leaves no doubt that what he "reveals" has been there on the page all along.

Nowhere has this been more evident than in these performances with the Vienna Philharmonic and Thomas Quasthoff (*Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*),



Violeta Urmana (*Rückert Lieder*), and Anne Sofie von Otter (*Kinderlieder*). The singing can hold its own with any in the rich recorded history of these songs, though none of it will make you turn your back on old favorites. The corollary is playing, on the other hand, are simply unparalleled. You haven't really heard everything these songs contain until you've experienced this CD.

Miraculously, Boulez never eclipses his singers. Still, on first listening, be prepared to be distracted from their remarkable work by details in the score that have never before emerged with such pungency, character, and purpose, while also seeming exactly right in proportion and sonic perspective. Hardly a measure, never a phrase, goes by without an inner, distant, or previously obscured instrumental sonority breaking in on your attention.

There's little point in counting the ways. To resort to LP language, drop the needle anywhere and brace yourself for amazement. The Vienna musicians, who have this music encoded in their DNA, must have loved making this recording, or so at least it sounds.

Multiple recordings of these songs by the likes of Janet Baker and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau haven't left as much unexplored in the vocal lines. But those singers' legacies have not inhibited Boulez's soloists from giving performances of interpretive acuity, keen individuality and emotional depth, the last the *sine qua non* of these cycles.

From the standpoint of sheer sound, the most striking of the performances comes from mezzo-turned-soprano Urmana, whose bright, penetrating timbre comes as a surprise in songs associated with lower male and female voices. Still, the sheer conviction of her renditions of the *Rückert Lieder*, the finest of the cycles, makes the splendors of her vocal production decidedly secondary to her subtle interpretations.

Although he has his work cut out for himself competing with the ghostly cellos in "Ich hab' ein glühend Messer," say nothing of the long shadow of Fischer-Dieskau's numerous recordings of the *Lieder eines fahrenden*

next page ►

## FILM

# Test your Oscar gaydar

## Play our Academy Awards trivia quiz

by Tavo Amador

**M**y wonderful straight cousin Bob refers to the Academy Awards ceremony as the "Gay Super Bowl," and he's right. Professional sports aren't the only areas ripe for trivia, however. So test your gaydar by answering these 50 (plus one) Oscar questions. [Answers next week.]

1. Who was the first to win three acting Oscars?
2. Who has the most acting Oscars?
3. Who has the most Best Actress nominations?
4. Who has the most losing Best Actress nominations?
5. Who has the most acting nominations?
6. Who have the most Best Actor nominations?
7. Who has the most losing Best Actor nominations?
8. Who are the only sisters to have won a Best Actress Oscar?
9. Who are the only brother and sister to have won acting Oscars?
10. Who among the following did not win an Oscar for his/her debut film: a) Julie Andrews, b) Barbra Streisand, c) Audrey Hepburn, d) Ben Kingsley, e) Shirley Booth.
11. Which women have won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar twice?
12. Which of the following musicals did not win the Best Picture Oscar? a) *West Side Story*, b) *Cabaret*, c) *The Broadway Melody*, d) *Oliver!* e) *Gigi*.
13. Name the Best Picture Oscar-winner that received only one nomination — for Best Film.
14. What role did Bette Davis turn down that won another actress the Oscar?
15. Who among the following does not have an Oscar for acting: a) Warren Beatty, b) Spencer Tracy, c) Marlon Brando, d) Laurence Olivier, e) Robin Williams.
16. Which actress has starred in the most Best Picture Oscar winners?
17. Which actor has starred in the most Best Picture Oscar winners?
18. Who among the following has

two Best Actor Oscars: a) John Travolta, b) Jude Law, c) Frederic March, d) Paul Newman, e) Peter O'Toole.

19. Name the three films to have won Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Writing Oscars.

20. Which films produced the most acting winners?

21. Which American dramatist created the most Oscar-winning and Oscar-nominated roles?

22. Who has won the most Best Director Oscars?

23. Who has the most Best Director Oscar nominations?

24. How many Best Director Oscars did Alfred Hitchcock win?

25. Which actress among the following has the most acting Oscars: a) Meryl Streep, b) Barbra Streisand, c) Ingrid Bergman, d) Glenn Close, e) Nicole Kidman.

26. Who among the following does not have two acting Oscars: a) Anthony Quinn, b) Laurence Olivier, c) Michael Caine, d) Marlon Brando, e) Dustin Hoffman.

27. Who among the following does not have two acting Oscars: a) Vivien Leigh, b) Maggie Smith, c) Jane Fonda, d) Glenda Jackson, e) Diane Keaton.

28. Who won two consecutive writing and directing Oscars?

29. For which of the following films was Elizabeth Taylor not nominated for Best Actress: a) *A Place in the Sun*, b) *Raintree Country*, c) *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, d) *Suddenly, Last Summer*, e) *Butterfield 8*, f) *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

30. How many acting nominations does Julia Roberts have?

31. How many acting nominations does Jude Law have?

32. Which films have received the most nominations?

33. Which films have won the most Oscars?

34. Who won the Best Actress Award in 1950: a) Anne Baxter for *All About Eve*, b) Bette Davis for *All About Eve*, c) Judy Holliday for *Born Yesterday*, d) Eleanor Parker for *Caged*, e) Gloria Swanson for *Sunset Boulevard*.

35. Who was the first to win two Best Actor Awards?

36. For which film did Tom Hanks not win an Oscar? a) *Philadelphia*, b) *Forrest Gump*, c) *Saving Private Ryan*.

37. For which film was Joan Crawford not nominated for Best Actress? a) *Mildred Pierce*, b) *Possessed*, c) *Sudden Fear*, d) *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*

38. Which two-time Best Actress winners won the only times they were nominated?

39. Who among the following was never nominated for an acting Oscar: a) Cary Grant, b) Matt Damon, c) Edward G. Robinson, d) John Wayne, e) Gary Cooper.

40. Who won an Oscar in an all-singing/dancing role?

41. How many Oscars does Paul Newman have?

42. Which of these famous couples does not have both a male and female acting winner: a) Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, b) Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, c) Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, d) Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

43. Who was the first to win a Best Actor Oscar for playing an openly gay character?

44. Who among the following never won a Best Actress Oscar? a) Ginger Rogers, b) Greta Garbo, c) Jane Wyman, d) Julia Roberts, e) Frances McDormand.

45. Who among the following never won a Best Actor Oscar? a) Ernest Borgnine, b) Kevin Spacey, c) Montgomery Clift, d) Rod Steiger, e) Michael Douglas.

46. For which film did Clark Gable win Best Actor? a) *It Happened One Night*, b) *Mutiny on the Bounty*, c) *Gone With the Wind*, d) *A King and Four Queens*, e) *The Misfits*.

47. Name the fathers and daughters with acting Oscars.

48. Which Oscar-winning director guided his father and his daughter to acting wins?

49. Which African Americans have won acting Oscars?

50. Which Hispanics have won acting Oscars?

**Bonus question:**

51. This year's Oscar ceremony will be broadcast on February 27, the birthday of which three-time winner? ▼

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## Mahler songs

◀ previous page

*Gesellen*, Quasthoff triumphs by deploying a rich palette of vocal colors and techniques (some approaching whispered speech). Like Bryn Terfel, he can lend a different cast to every syllable of a song and still make it emerge a fully integrated, expressive, natural-sounding whole. From both singer and orchestra, "Die zwei blauen Augen" offers a bittersweet of blend of jauntiness and the foreboding of love gone sour.

Von Otter's light mezzo was better suited to her recording of Ravel's *Shéhérazade* with Boulez, but her way with words more than compensates in the desolate strains of the *Kindertotenlieder*. Her pointed readings draw you



deep into these tragic songs.

In the right hands, literally, the piano-vocal versions of these songs can be as effective as their orchestrated counterparts. As only the supreme example, Fischer-Dieskau's 1971 recording, with Leonard Bernstein at the piano, is one you have to have been doing your emotional push-ups to endure. Unfortunately, in the shadow

of Boulez's CD, baritone Stephan Genz's new *Mahler Songs* (Hyperion), with pianist Roger Vignoles, released almost simultaneously, pales.

The problem is only partially Genz, who gives thoughtful accounts of the same cycles as well as seven songs from the early *Lieder und Gesänge*. His velvety voice lacks the requisite expressive range, and it often succumbs to coarseness and unsteadiness at the top of the range. Still, his is an earnest stab at the material.

Vignoles — characteristically, if you ask me — undermines a singer already in trouble at every turn. He's too savvy a pianist to try to mimic Mahler's orchestra (nor could he). Even so, his attention-stealing accompaniments are, alternately, drab, overwrought, or outright wacky, and they tear the songs to shreds. ▼

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Hilary Swank and Morgan Freeman, award-worthy in *Million Dollar Baby*

## Oscar race

► Arts cover

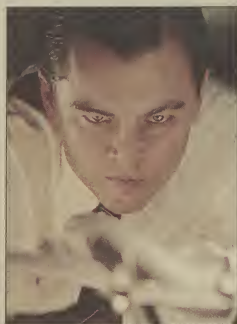
only role in that repellent movie with a tincture of humanity. I'm betting Freeman wins for his sage gym-rat, with extra votes scored for sentimentality.

### Best Supporting Actress: Home of the wild card

Virginia Madsen of *Sideways* has a lovely and relaxed camera presence, though her character's interest in a lumpy self-loathing wine snob is pure straight-white-male wish-fulfillment. Cate Blanchett as Katharine Hepburn is a welcome sight in *The Aviator*, if only because she gives this biopic its most spirited attempt at celebrity mimicry. Laura Linney: also welcome in *Kinsey* as the wife coping with her husband's physical and intellectual amplitudes. Sophie Okonedo of *Hotel Rwanda* brings dignity to a role that is based entirely on reactions. Natalie Portman, mother to Princess Leia, plays a trash-talking stripper in Mike Nichols' *Closer*. Such counterintuitive casting has the bald-faced grasp for respect that got Ann-Margret an Oscar nomination for Nichols' *Carnal Knowledge* 34 years ago.

### Best Actor: Everybody loves Ray

The exquisite *Finding Neverland* isn't a Johnny Depp movie, but rather a movie with Johnny Depp in it. That makes all the difference for those of us who wince at fey pirates. Leonard DiCaprio is all wrong as industrialist-film producer-clean freak Howard Hughes in *The Aviator*. Hughes was a neurotic rapsallion with killer good

Leo DiCaprio in *The Aviator*

looks. Colin Farrell, Jeremy Northam, Clive Owen, Rufus Sewell maybe: but DiCaprio? At 30, he looks barely ready for the junior prom. Don Cheadle, who has contributed terrific supporting turns in everything from *Boogie Nights* to *Traffic* to *Out of Sight*, now skillfully carries the weight of a leading role in the distressing *Hotel Rwanda*. Clint Eastwood, his voice dusted with old age, reaches a career apex with *Million Dollar Baby* in a performance that mixes wisdom, pain, and humor with a virtuosity that makes it look easy. Jamie Foxx's channeling of jazz great Ray Charles in *Ray* has been universally praised, but his second nomination in *Collateral* complicates matters. Then there's the Marni Nixon factor: Oscar has traditionally been stingy to actors who lip-synch. Still, Foxx is the man to beat.

### Best Actress: Bening-Swank horse-race

Imelda Staunton gives a shattering performance in *Vera Drake*.

Paul Giamatti and Virginia Madsen in *Sideways*: pure wish-fulfillment?

As London's friendly neighborhood postwar abortionist, she is the essence of moral certainty at odds with the state. Kate Winslet is on her fourth nomination as a bookseller who can't decide on hair color in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. Poor Winslet struggles against one of those insufferable Charlie (*Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*) Kaufman scripts that keeps announcing its own cleverness. Film newcomer Catalina Sandino Moreno resists all acting tricks for her spare turn in *Maria Full of Grace*, which more honestly should have been titled *Maria Full of Heroin Pellets*. In *Being Julia*, Annette Bening is truly delicious as an actress who is once and forever most herself when she is on stage. Previous Best Actress winner Hilary Swank (*Boys Don't Cry*) appeared destined to dwell among the Oscar-cursed until she played *Million Dollar Baby*'s spitfire trailer-park distaff pugilist. Now we know she isn't a one-trick pony, she's just hard to cast. The yak in Hollywood has Best Actress going to Swank or Bening. Since Swank won the year Bening was nominated for *American Beauty*, expect high suspense.

### Best Director & Picture: Eastwood KOs Scorsese?

*Finding Neverland* is a movie that dares to explore imagination and creativity, and to discover what unites young and old, rich and poor, men and women, the sick and the well. Unapologetically retro and blessed with high production values, this movie makes no easy judgments of its characters, nor does it draw simple conclusions about the child in all of us. It may not be a faithful biography of Peter Pan creator J.M. Barrie, but shimmers with a love of human relationships. Director Marc Forster was denied a nomination, so safe bets are not on it to win Best Picture. Reversely, Mike Leigh is nominated for directing *Vera Drake*, but his movie is not a Best Picture contender.

*The Aviator* is Martin Scorsese's noisy, pointless ode to one of film's premier weirdos. Thirty years ago, this would have made a really cool rock-opera. Under present conditions, Scorsese shows questionable judgment, burying old Hollywood in an avalanche of visual clichés. Fire the art director! The villain's office looks like a *Batman* set, while a Production Code board meeting looks like a parole hearing. Echoing pulpists Harold Robbins and Jacqueline Susann, there's glamour, in-your-face flashbulbs, wicked tabloids, namedropping, yo-yoing careers, flirtations with death, and allusions to tawdry sex.

*The Aviator* suffers from a condition common to biopics, whereby stick-figure actors are asked to embody familiar ghosts, in this case Jean Harlow, Errol Flynn, and Ava Gardner. The artificial artifice doesn't work. Sad, too, that fancy, computer-generated aerial sequences can't compare to the real thing in *Hell's Angels*. Such odd choices from Scorsese, the self-appointed champion of film history and preservation.

For reasons that aren't obvious on screen, *Sideways* sent critics coast-to-coast into multiple orgasms. So many proclaimed it '04's best, which says more about the temperament of film critics than it does about cinematic excellence. The appeal of two misanthropes in a visually dull road-picture escaped some of us. These two guys are nowhere near funny or interesting enough to be anything but the Smothers Brothers in a darker shade of blue. The screenplay is a stew of predictable foreshadowing, condescension, flights of burlesque, and an ending so pat you'll swear you've seen it a dozen times before. There's even a stab at ersatz poetry. *Sideways* is awash in wine metaphors, perhaps because "life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death" is already taken.

*Ray* is a handsome, musically rich scrapbook offering a warts-and-all portrayal of Charles. There's enough decor and angst to do Susan Hayward proud: unscrupulous managers, booze and dope, backstage betrayals, an improvised childhood, rehab, neon at night, adultery, the ostentation of wealth, and a running length to test the commitment of casual on-lookers. It's as slick as olive oil, which is no surprise coming from director nominee Taylor Hackford, the man who lifted *An Officer and a Gentleman* up where it belonged.

Producer-director-actor Clint Eastwood is back (has he ever gone away?) with *Million Dollar Baby*. It is possibly the best work he has ever done. Gone is the overlength of *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, the occasional lugubriousness of *Unforgiven*, the meandering of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and the tortured plotting of *Mystic River*. *Baby* expertly mixes realism, modern fable, and a lesson in consequences to tell its tale of boxing. This is no standard sports flick; it is rather an involving, shadowy, and finely drawn triangular character study. A *Million Dollar* sweep is not out of the question.

Of course, all this prognostication is mere background in hopes of a shock or two. Indeed, that's what award junkies live for. And the Oscar goes to... ▼

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## DANCE

# Maiden with a heart condition

San Francisco Ballet's 'Giselle' gives big-time pleasure

by Stephanie von Buchau

Either I'm getting gaga and totally uncritical, or the San Francisco Ballet is over-achieving big-time this season. Saturday night's *Giselle* revival at the War Memorial may have been the most pleasurable all-around performance of that romantic piece I've ever seen. With the work of the corps and soloists in the second act, I have to proclaim it the best *Giselle* in my 40 years' experience with the 1841 Adam-Perrot-Coralli ballet.

I still think producer-choreographer Helgi Tomasson and his then-conductor, Emil de Cou, overdid the extra music in Act I of the new 1999 SFB production. Just a few too many peasant dances stretch the act to one hour, and the Pas de Cinq, while it showcases the company's second-tier dancers — corps member Hansuke Yamamoto looked particularly fresh and springy — is in that classical genre mode that is not one of Tomasson's strong choreographic suits.

Still, the extra work for Giselle, the innocent village maiden with a heart condition, and her philanthropic nobleman lover, Albrecht, is more than welcome, especially when danced like this. When Yuan Yuan Tan did Giselle in 1999, she was gently promising. Now she's exquisite. It's not just the technical feats, though her beats are so clean you can count them; the speed of her pique turns takes your breath away; her balances could easily go on forever; and she has a deeper arabesque penchee than Myrtha, supposedly queen of that tricky move.

British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams once wrote that "the object of art is to stretch the ultimate realities through the medium of beauty." He could have been describing Tan, who cloaks every technical move in such deliquescent beauty that there is a constant rustle of appreciation in the audience while she is dancing. She doesn't "act" the Mad Scene, distorting her face and body, so much as she lets you feel the poor girl's pain. She simply embodies the character's emotions with her dancing, her feet, her arms, that beautifully bowed neck with the exposed vertebrae that I imagine most ballerinas would kill for.

Tan's Giselle is a happy innocent in Act I, her joy tinged with sadness when she plays the "he loves me, he loves me not" game. By Act II, she looks totally different: severe, womanly, still madly in love with the cad and willing to help him redeem himself. Pierre-Francois Vilanoba would not be my first choice for an ideal Albrecht. (Let's face it, possums, I'm never getting over Erik Bruhn, Nureyev's lover, whom I saw with the ethereal Carla Fracci numerous times in the '70s.) Vilanoba tends to be kind of lunky, like a louché French soccer star you wouldn't mind meeting behind the stadium for a bit of rumpy-pumpy. But you don't necessarily see him as a romantic hero.

He rose to this occasion, however, being sweetly sympathetic in Act I, matching Tan in those side-by-side jetés and the intricate footwork. In Act II, he was properly desperate as Muriel Maffre's cruel Myrtha forced him to dance

to exhaustion. His elevation was good, though the ground-skimming brises volés aren't as electric as Bruhn's. In his dramatic entrance to Act II, wearing a black velvet cape lined with gray satin, arms full of calla lilies, he looked rather like Keanu Reeves in one of that dishy actor's devil-defying anti-heroic roles.

## Killer part

With this pair in the leads, satisfaction was guaranteed, but the rest of the cast was on the same level. Maffre was as musical as I've ever seen her in this killer part. I would suggest that the entire cast's musicality is partly due to conductor Andrew Mogrelia. I wish he'd tone down the noisy intros to each act (Adam's fault, I know), but otherwise, the orchestra played with poetic sensitivity, especially in Act II, with Paul Ehrlich's tender viola solo leading the way.

Other standouts included Damian Smith's Hilarion (in a

better world, Giselle would choose him and live happily ever after), Rory Hohenstein's squire (the first time I ever paid attention to what Wilfred was doing — namely, trying to keep his master out of trouble); Nutnaree Pipit-Suksun and Sarah Van Patten as Myrtha's henchwomen; and the vets Anita Paciotti, Val Caniparoli and Pascale Leroy as Giselle's mother, the Duke of Courland and his daughter, Bathilde, Albrecht's betrothed. The other peasants in the Pas de Cinq were Van Patten, Vanessa Zahorian, Rachel Viselli and Sergio Torrado.

Possibly the real star of this revival was the female corps in Act II. When the dancers hop across the stage in perfect alignment, I usually think of that silly moment in the Trocadero's *Giselle* when the corps butts heads and falls down, but not Saturday. I was oohing and aahing just like everybody around me. I never saw the Kirov, even at its best, dance with such stunning precision. [sfballet.org](http://sfballet.org) ▼



Yuan Yuan Tan and Pierre-Francois Vilanoba in Tomasson's *Giselle*.

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# Mind-opening music festival

Cutting-edge 'Other Minds' this weekend at Yerba Buena Center

by Jason Victor Serinus

Sometimes it stretches the imagination; often it blows the mind wide open. Either way, the 11th annual *Other Minds Festival*, held February 24-26 in the intimate acoustic of SF's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, offers a crash course in cutting-edge new and experimental music.

A special feature of this year's festival is Saturday's daytime centenary celebration of gay composer, pianist and activist Marc Blitzstein. Born in Philadelphia, Blitzstein studied composition with Arnold Schoenberg and Nadia Boulanger before embarking on a course uniquely his own. Thanks to his 1937 musical collaboration with Orson Welles, *The Cradle Will Rock*, Blitzstein's pro-labor stand against corporate plunder elevated him to national prominence.

Blitzstein's translation of the text Bertolt Brecht wrote for Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* inspired its long-running American revival. His work was also a major influence on Leonard Bernstein, Michael Tilson Thomas, and other major musicians of the 20th century. Blitzstein's contributions to the progressive music community came to a tragic end when, at 59, he was murdered before completing his long-awaited opera, a Metropolitan Opera commission



Gay composer Marc Blitzstein

based on the lives of Italian anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti.

Of special interest is the Saturday 2 p.m. Blitzstein tribute that includes his song settings of Walt Whitman's erotic poetry. Complemented by settings of e.e. cummings and songs from Blitzstein's musicals *The Cradle Will Rock*, *No for an Answer* and *Regina*, the performance features Bay Area new-music champion and pianist Sarah Cahill accompanying vocalists Amy X Neuberger, John Duykers, and Eric A. Gordon. Cahill also performs the West Coast premiere of Blitzstein's *Piano Percussion Music*, written when he was 23. The 1928 film *Hände* and a discussion led by Blitzstein biog-

rapher Eric A. Gordon cap a celebration that begins at 11 a.m. with a screening of Tim Robbins' much-lauded 1999 film revival of Blitzstein's *Cradle Will Rock*.

## Driving rhythms

Thursday night's 8 p.m. opening concert, preceded by the Other Minds composer panel discussion at 7, features the West Coast premiere of New Yorker Phil Niblock's *Sethwork* for guitars with e-bow accompanied by motion pictures. Dread violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain, known for mixing Bach, be-bop, and hip-hop, takes a break from composing for orchestras and Cassandra Wilson's big band to play electric violin in the world premiere of his String Quartet No. 4 *Angelou*. The work also features our local Del Sol String Quartet and DJ Scientific sampling poetry by Maya Angelou. Finally, English composer/pianist Michael Nyman, known for his driving rhythms and emotionally-involving music, plays selections from his own works, welcomes the Del Sols for the San

Francisco premiere of his emotionally intense String Quartet No. 3, then joins them and soprano Cheryl Keller for the US concert premiere of his *Ballad of Kasriot Rexhepi*.

Friday's composer panel precedes an evening headlined by a 60th birthday tribute to Other Minds' founding Artistic Director Charles Amirkhanian. The local premiere of a condensed version of Amirkhanian's provocative radiophonic tape snapshot, *Son of Metropolis San Francisco*, takes advantage of a state-of-the-art surround-sound speaker array from Berkeley's Meyer Sound. Radical guitarist Fred Frith, whose home base is Mills College, presents the world premiere of new works. Finally, vocalist Maria De Alvear joins the Kronos Quartet's founding cellist Joan Jeanrenaud and Berlin's classical Indian Dhrupad vocalist Amelia Cuni for the world premiere of her *Gran Sol*. De Alvear's music has been influenced by studies with Native American musicians in the US and Canada.

Saturday night's finale features a West Coast Premiere, SF premiere, and world premiere guaranteed to provoke. John Luther Adams, who lives in the Alaskan forest, invites New Haven's So Percussion ensemble to bang out selections from his atmospherically intense *Strange and Sacred Noise*. NY clarinetist Evan Ziporyn of Bang on a Can fame then invites So Percussion to his *Melody Competition*, which at times sounds like a Balinese gamelan dodging rush hour traffic in SoHo. Finally, composer/violinist Billy Bang and his NY-based quintet presents the latest additions to his ongoing *Vietnam Reflections*. Sometimes jazzy, frequently emotionally riveting, Bang's intensely personal work will ground three days of music from other spheres in the deadly realities of war and greed. ▼

**The Other Minds Festival runs Thurs.-Sat. at YBCA. Tickets: call (415) 978-2787 or see [www.ybca.org](http://www.ybca.org). Info: [otherminds.org](http://otherminds.org).**

# Style and energy

Fortnight with maestro Metzmacher

by Philip Campbell

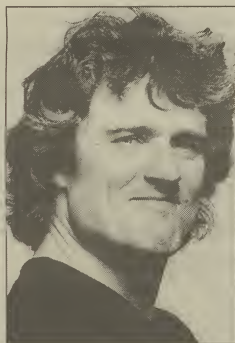
German conductor Ingo Metzmacher made a strong impression on local audiences in 2002 when he first appeared with the San Francisco Symphony. His most recent fortnight of concerts at Davies Hall has now placed him very near the top of the list for most welcome returning artists.

Metzmacher made his international reputation early in the 1980s as pianist for the innovative Ensemble Modern. He later became the contemporary music group's regular conductor. Respected equally for his work with opera and symphony orchestras, the highly individual maestro has also become a leading advocate for the music of Karl Amadeus Hartmann.

Hartmann's deep disdain for the Nazis and their terrible regime forced him into a self-imposed exile within the boundaries of his own homeland. He did not re-enter German musical life until after the war, and by then, he had a lot of catching up to do. His strict non-participation ironically placed him in sudden demand, but he was fairly ignorant of the latest trends.

If his segregation had left him behind, it at least allowed a chance for the development of a distinctive voice. Early scores reflected the jazziness of the pre-war years, but later anguish and helpless isolation sobered his style. Most of Hartmann's output is thus modified from youthful influences by the intense experience of grief and loss. Angry emotionalism co-mingles with a mature spirituality and a lively musical wit.

Ingo Metzmacher has recorded all eight of Hartmann's symphonies to great acclaim. The recent concerts featured the succinctly expressive Sixth, the last of the compositions to be re-worked



Brings unexpected treats to SFS.

from pre-war material.

Something of a concerto for orchestra, the two-movement piece fairly flies by, but it manages to say quite a lot without dawdling. The first half is dense and colorful, full of sadly lyrical touches. The second part is a breathtaking series of fugues that gain in speed until an abrupt and thrilling conclusion.

The audience whooped with surprised delight at the sheer energy of the performance, and appeared pleasantly relieved by the accessibility of Hartmann's style. The orchestra responded to Metzmacher's sure hand with concentrated attention and virtuosic playing.

It made up for pianist Garrick Ohlsson's resolutely impersonal rendition of Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 *Emperor* on the first half of the program. There was nothing conspicuously offensive about Ohlsson's stern approach, and he certainly displayed assurance throughout. The results were simply unimoving. The crowd disagreed with me and gave the soloist a loud standing ovation. It didn't make him smile either.

Last week, Metzmacher ended his visit with the first SFS perfor-

mances of Schumann's evening-length *Paradise and the Peri*. The potentially ungainly work is actually a remarkably fluid cross between a concert opera and an oratorio. The performance was a pleasant revelation, and managed to prove the composer's genius ability to rise above a really stupid plot.

Of course, Schumann didn't think the maudlin blend of exoticism and obscure spirituality was perplexing at the time. The words of poet Thomas Moore were wildly popular, and audiences of the day were hungry for the heady perfume of his verse.

The translation of the text was projected with supertitles on either side of the stage. While it was more intelligible than the version printed in the program book, it scarcely mattered. What a lot of Romantic twaddle!

It is safe to say it would have been better to just receive a brief synopsis of the plot. Imagination and rudimentary German would have been enough to let the many pleasures of Schumann's score suffice.

Vance George's *Symphony Chorus* sounded exciting and full-bodied, even if the best writing goes to the soloists. Soprano Laura Aiken was radiant in the role of the *Peri* (a sort of ethereal something or other), tenor Christoph Pregardien was a fine narrator, and mezzo-soprano Kristine Jepson sounded rich and confident as the Angel.

The other soloists were uniformly excellent, and the orchestra played with clarity and warmth. The conductor went for the gold, and he found it.

*Paradise and the Peri* might not be the kind of piece one would hasten to hear again, but it made for a thoroughly satisfying concert and a real must for Schumann lovers. Thanks to Ingo Metzmacher, San Francisco received again some unexpected treats. ▼

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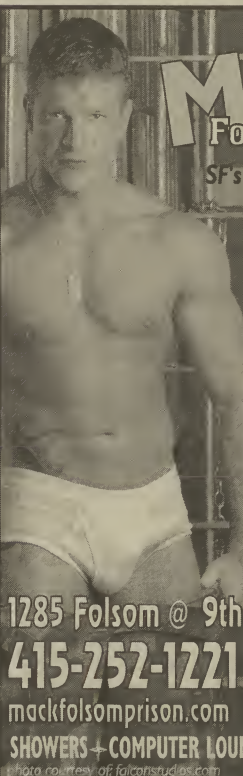
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# Family tragedy values

'Imaginary Heroes' reveals a dark American dream

by David Lamble

At precisely 68 minutes into the new film *Imaginary Heroes*, two dark-haired, angelic-looking lads lock lips. It's a New Year's Eve kiss (fueled by a couple of tabs of ecstasy), and you know how hard those New Year's resolutions can be even a few hours later. Tim (Emile Hirsch) has gotten up first, but Kyle (Ryan Donowho) has endured a sleepless night pondering his options, after having just shagged his best friend and next-door neighbor.

"I would have left first, but I live here."

"I don't know what just happened."

"Seemed to remember putting on..."

"Don't say that, Kyle."

"What, man, what you want me to say?"

"It was the ecstasy."

"The ecstasy. The ecstasy. Listen, Tim, I'm not, honestly, I'm not, man. You might be. It makes sense. But I'm not."

Writer/director Dan Harris has a talent for creating characters who are as skittish as wild horses at the least hint of a commitment that might last longer than it takes to finish a joint. There hasn't been as much dope consumed in a domestic comedy since Curtis Hansen's *Wonder Boys*.

The hot boy-kiss is one of two distinctly queer moments in a film that's primarily aimed at showing the implosion of yet another affluent family following the sudden death of an adolescent son. The American Dream goes terribly



Tim (Emile Hirsch) and Kyle (Ryan Donowho) share a joint in writer/director Dan Harris' *Imaginary Heroes*.

awry in the bosom of the suburban Republican family. Think *Ordinary People*, *The Ice Storm*, and yes, *Donnie Darko*.

Tim Travis harbors a guilty secret about the suicide of his fair-haired, swimming-champion brother Matt (Kip Pardue). Dad (Jeff Daniels) sets a place at the dinner table for the dead boy while largely ignoring his surviving son. Mother (Sigourney Weaver) alternates a bitter rage against her next-door neighbor Marge, mother of Kyle (Deirdre O'Connell), with the ingestion of stupendous amounts of marijuana.

The script for *Imaginary Heroes* was Harris' Hollywood calling card. It prompted Brian Singer to pay the then-22-year-old Harris to write the comic book movie *X2*. Harris has a keen ear for dramatic confessions and unbridled rants. His characters frequently

lash out, and are quite accident-prone. Hirsch's Tim alone racks up a score of suspicious body bruises, two bloody noses, and a broken leg in a film that, if it were a TV show, would rest uneasily between the melodrama of *ER* and the edgy black comedy of *Scrubs*.

## Prison blues

It's in the comedy department where the film occasionally loses its way, suffering from the *Saturday Night Live* curse of the skit that starts with an outrageous premise, but then fails to find a real satiric thrust. The notion of the pot-smoking mom who converses with her son as if he were her lover, while hardly talking to

her husband at all, is sufficiently amusing that we could have dispensed with Weaver's over-the-top excursion from head shop to police holding-tank. The movie only really cooks when it stays within the prison of the family. Strangely enough, it is that boy-kiss that puts the plot back on track — violating the homo virginity of its male leads is, after all, something that only a movie can dare. You can't even imagine such a smooch between Ryan and Seth on TV's *The O.C.* Curiously, though, it is exactly our covert desire for the erotic soiling of a male sibling relationship that gives *The O.C.* part of its queer following, and may persuade gay filmgoers to ignore the mixed buzz on *Imag-*

*inary Heroes*.

In a film whose wildly eclectic elements comprise almost a variety show, a very Jewish Christmas party (again, conjure up *The O.C.* and the "Christmaka" celebration invented by Adam Brody's Seth) becomes the occasion for a musical number by Bay Area-bred cabaret divas Kiki (Justin Bond) and Herb (Kenny Mellman). Just as we start to wonder how our San Francisco darlings wound up singing their guts out in this suburban hell-hole, their performance is abruptly interrupted, as Tim and Dad suddenly rediscover each other's existence, literally across a crowded room.

*Imaginary Heroes'* great saving grace is a dream cast. Weaver, as in *Ice Storm*, again demonstrates how good she is at giving us the mom we'd only want to meet in a Greek tragedy; Jeff Daniels is able to summon up some redemptive features for what first appears to be a loathsome bastard of a dad; Michelle Williams takes the family-acting smarts from six seasons on *Dawson's Creek* to play the best sister a queer-boy-in-training might hope for; Ryan Donowho is sensational as the comely boy next door who'll pop anything into his mouth; and Emile Hirsch (who co-starred with Donowho in another drama of a grieving family, *The Mudge Boy*) is absolutely transcendent as the boy who's almost proud to proclaim that he's no hero. *Opens Friday.* ▼



The late Leslie Cheung stars in a story of rebellious youth in Hong Kong.

# Youth gone wild

Early Wong Kar-wai returns

by David Lamble

You'll see me tonight in your dreams." A young and, it turns out, very irresponsible young man sweeps a female stadium-concessionaire off her feet in the opening scene of Wong Kar-wai's breakthrough film *Days of Being Wild* ('91), which gets a re-release this week. The original Chinese title literally translates as *The Story of Rebellious Youth*, the same name given to *Rebel Without a Cause* in its Hong Kong release.

As Yuddy, the late Leslie Cheung's combination of sullen fury and bad-boy moxie is as incendi-

ary as the young James Dean. Yuddy has a knack for enticing emotionally vulnerable women to his bachelor pad, where they frolic away many a torpid afternoon. Whenever a girl gets a little too stuck on him, he has a way of smashing her hopes with lines like, "I'll call you a cab," or, "I'm not the marrying kind."

Young men also flock to Yuddy's scent: Tide, a lonely police officer with dreams of becoming a sailor, played by noir hunk Andy Lau; and Zeb (Jacky Cheung), a former schoolmate of Yuddy's who's desperately hoping that his friend's charisma will rub off like a

page 44 ►

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



Mark Weigle releases his hot, gay double CD — *SOULSEX*

## What jewels!

Sometimes you think you know someone, and they surprise you by showing you a whole new splendid dimension of themselves. The moment Veronica Klaus dove into her show *FAMILY JEWELS* — *The Making of Veronica Klaus*, the cozy EXIT Theater in the Tenderloin came alive with Klaus's tender splendor. Dressed in a burgundy gown, her auburn hair warmly highlighted in the EXIT's tiny but fabulous set representing her private abode, Veronica sang "Fever" in that nasally old blues voice of hers, then proceeded to relate details of her fascinating life, starting as a biological boy in small-town Gillespie, Illinois.

The beautiful thing about Veronica's one-woman autobiographical musical-theatre piece, handsomely created with and directed by Jeffrey Hartgraves, is how effortlessly and fluidly she moves from spoken narrative to singing songs of multiple genres. The show utilizes complex pre-recorded arrangements of cabaret, pop, jazz, and R&B numbers rendered by her band, including the masterful jazz pianist Tammy Hall, who was present and glowing in the audience on opening night.

Veronica's tale is hugely compelling, the oh-so-real account of a boy who became a glamorous musical diva, for real. Veronica was very much a woman when I first laid eyes on her more than a decade ago, and her music career was well underway even then. She lives and breathes feminine mystique. Her bosom is real, and so is her heart and voice. But I'd never heard the whole story before, and it's ever so seductive, made more so by the gorgeous music and arrangements. You'll adore *Family Jewels*. How can you not love a tuba-playing jazz/R&B vocalist with auburn hair and a story to make you cry and laugh and let your spirit soar?

*Family Jewels* runs Thu., Fri. & Sat., Feb. 17-March 12, 8 p.m., at EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy St. at Mason. Tix: \$20 Adult; \$18 Senior; \$17 Theatre Bay Area. Call 866-811-4111 or 415-820-1565. On the Web at [steinbeckpresents.org](http://steinbeckpresents.org)

### Mark Weigle unveils *SOULSEX* at the Eagle Tavern

How appropriate that SF's foremost out, proud singer/songwriter/queer rocker, Mark Weigle, released his new double-CD — *SOULSEX* ([www.markweigle.com](http://www.markweigle.com)) — on the same night as Veronica Klaus debuted her show. The two great artists then have jointly released a new CD titled *Live At The Lodge!* That album features 13 tracks recorded at a benefit for the Rainbow World Fund.

What's really causing a buzz is Mark's latest gem, *SOULSEX*, which he debuted at an especially fun "Thursday Nite Live" at the Eagle Tavern during International Bear Rendezvous. The bar was packed with big, beefy guys and Weigle, the dean of gay troubadours, set about entertaining them with incredible energy. Soon he had the whole place giggling with joy. He and his bandmates bared their chests and put their hearts and souls into fresh songs from *Wrestling the Angel* — the more somber, serious of the two CDs — and *Versatile*, a bawdy romp through gay sexuality, speaking directly and forcefully to gay men and their concerns.

As a package, Weigle's *SOULSEX* is everything a gay man could want, with songs devoted to circumcision, assholes (the sexy kind), cocksucking and truckers, along with more sentimental/topical fare, such as the love of men and horses, gay marriage, loss, and the legacy of Billy Jack Gaither. It's a lovingly crafted album that speaks to our values and sings our unique, precious language. ▼



The Shotgun Players perform Albert Camus' meditation on terrorism in the name of justice at the Ashby Stage in Berkeley. See Thursday.

## Fri 25

### Rescue and Recovery @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's *Pride Season Ten We Are Family* presents the West Coast premiere of Steve Murray's dark comedy *Rescue and Recovery*, directed by Christopher Jenkins. Ever fall in love with the wrong person at the wrong time? In this quirky dark comedy, recovering alcohol and drug addict Cameron falls head-over-heels for Mark, an indecisive bank teller who has more skeletons than he does closets. His ex-wife Janie watches the whole debacle from the sidelines, waiting to say "I told you so!" An honest look at what it really means to be in love, and what it takes to get over it. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. Runs thru March 6, Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsc.org](http://www.nctcsc.org)

### Rock Out w/o yr Cock Out @ Edinburgh Castle

Femina Potens presents *Rock Out w/o yr Cock Out w/ Boyskout, Paper Boats* (with Cari Campbell), *Scream Club* (Canada) and *Romanteek*. *Rock Out w/o yr Cock Out* is a monthly queer and progressive rock and experimental noise event showcasing women and transgendered musicians in the bay area and beyond the final Friday of every month. Come support women and transgendered musicians, eat some fish and chips, have a beer, and come see some kick ass performances for \$5. Last month the place was packed wall to wall, so get there early to get up close and personal with the performers. Feb. 25, 9pm, at Edinburgh Castle, 950 Geary Ave. Info: [feminaipotens.com](http://feminaipotens.com)

### Shadowplay @ The Stud

Opening night: *Shadowplay*, the omnisexual, indie, New Wave, electro, and discopunk club, from the producers of the *Shadowplay Stage*, the SF Pride Festival's alternative dance stage. DJ Donimo (Vanguard, New Wave City, *Shadowplay Stage*) and guests will be spinning every Friday at the Stud. Go go boys and grrrrrr! \$5 after 10pm. Opening night: Fri., Feb. 25, 9pm-3am; at The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: 415-252-STUD; [shadowplaysf.com](http://shadowplaysf.com)

### Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Cafe

*Queer Open Mic* — hosted by Cindy M. Emch. Featuring Angie Krass, the Mississippi Madam of Mayhem, as she performs her high voltage, rambunctious comedy. She will be sharing her experiences and kaleidoscope-like observations, with a southern flair for storytelling, and rib-cracking humor. *Queer Open Mic* is meant for queers and allies of all stripes, colors, and affiliations to come together and share art, thoughts, conversations, passions and a damn good cuppa joe. All donations benefit the performers and The Center. \$1-\$5 do-

nation (NOTAFLÖF). Sign up at 7:30. Show at 8pm, Feb. 25 at Three Dollar Bill Cafe, 1800 Market St. at Octavia. Info: [www.threedollarbill.com](http://www.threedollarbill.com) or email [indigo\\_cin@yahoo.com](mailto:indigo_cin@yahoo.com)

### Circo Zero

#### @ Dance Mission Theater

The Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater and Circo Zero present two new works of experimental circus and performance: *CHOSSEN*, a solo performance by Keith Hennessy, and *MERCY*, hardcore lyrical circus by Circo Zero, featuring acrobat/contortionist Jade-blue Eclipse, aerialist/vocalist Susan Voyticky, shamanic fool Seth Eisen aka Butterskotch, dancer/vocalist Maryann Brooks, aerialist/acrobat, Brett Womack with electronic composer Marc Kate, and director Keith Hennessy. "Fine Print: A little bit of nudity, lots of underwear, and mature themes — war, Israel, depression, Abu Ghraib, transcendence, queer midlife — make this inappropriate for most children and some adults. \$15. 8pm. Fri-Sun, Feb. 25-Mar 6. Dance Mission Theater, 3316-24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-273-4633; [www.circozero.org](http://www.circozero.org)

### Wilde Chats Forum @ The Center

Wilde Chats presents a special community forum: "GAY MEN: Risk Taking Renegades?" A forum about risks we do and do not take, and why. What are the risks some of us take? What do we deny ourselves for fear of taking risks? What do we risk by leaving our gay Mecca? Panelists will include Men's Sexual Health Specialist Frank Strona and Perry Rhodes. 7pm Fri., Feb. 25 at the LGBT Center, 4th floor.



John Atwood plays Rod Clark in NCTC's YouthAware production of the one-man drama *Party Daze*. See Monday.

### Trisha Brown Dance Company @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

One of modern dance's most influential companies celebrates its 35th anniversary with a program of classics and new dances. Featuring *Set & Reset* (1983), with music by Laurie Anderson; choreography by Trisha Brown; and *Present Tense* (2003), with music by John Cage. \$26, \$36 & \$48. 8pm Sat. & Sun., Feb. 25 & 26. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Tix: 510-642-9988; [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu)

## Sat 26

### Nite Out

#### @ San Francisco Ballet

San Francisco Ballet invites the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community to the first of two exceptional evenings featuring the highlights of the 2005 Season. Tonight (Sat., Feb. 26) featuring Program 3: Tomasson's  *Giselle*. Love transcends even death in this timeless, full-length classic by Helgi Tomasson.  *Giselle* portrays the tale of a young peasant girl who is driven to madness and untimely death upon discovering that her true love Albrecht has deceived her. In spite of the betrayal, Giselle, who now resides in an otherworldly forest of be-guiled female spirits. Lavish scenery and costumes, soulful music, and beautiful dance epitomizing the pure classicism of the Romantic ballets. (The next Nite Out will be on Fri., April 8). Your \$50 ticket includes: Performance at 8 pm. War Memorial Opera House, Orchestra Seating; Cocktail Reception 10:30 pm to Midnight, Dress Circle Bar, War Memorial Opera House; Complimentary wine by La Crema, cocktails featuring Blue Ice Vodka, and decadent desserts. Info/tix: (415) 865-2000; [www.sfballet.org](http://www.sfballet.org)

### Grand Opening @ Café Flore

Grand Opening Celebration: Café Flore, the Castro's legendary neighborhood hangout since 1973, has just been granted their liquor license. The full cocktail bar will be open on Sat. & Sun., Feb. 26 & 27, with festivities each day after 5pm, including entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and deep discounts on drinks. Café Flore offers an intimate atmosphere where you can have a conversation without having to shout over the music. Their kitchen offers a great selection of healthy food for breakfast, lunch and dinner, open until 10pm. Indoor, garden and sidewalk seating. General Manager: Matthew Pausa. Café Flore, 2298 Market St. at N. St. Info: [cafe-flore.com](http://cafe-flore.com)

### Hyena Homo Hour @ Hyena Theater

The Hyena Comedy Institute presents "Hyena Homo Hour," featuring side-splitting gay and lesbian comics Nick Leonard, Chantal Carrere, Julie F. Potter, Enzo, Beck Mankowski, Dave Cox, Desiree Unicorn, Ronn Vigh, and you Emcee, Alana Devich. 55-58 sliding. 8:30pm. Hyena Theater, 2390 Mission St., 3rd Floor (at 20th St.). Tix/info: 415-821-3444; [www.hyena-comedy.org](http://www.hyena-comedy.org)

### Baila Conmigo

#### @ Metronome Dance Center

Mila Salazar and Amy Little invite you to our new Baila Conmigo Same Sex Latin Night at the Metronome Dance Center, held on the fourth Saturday of each month! They believe the Same Sex Latin Night will be a nice complement to our Same Sex Salsa classes which they teach on Saturdays. The dance will be in the Metronome's Block Party, located on De Haro Street between 16th and 17th Streets. The music will be mostly Salsa, but they'll throw in some Cha-Chas, Rumbas, Argentine Tangos, etc. Schedule: 7-7:30pm Potluck; 7:30-8:30pm Dance Lesson (Cha Cha); 8:30-11:30pm Dance Party; 9:30pm Performances. \$15 Lesson and Party; \$8 Party only. Metronome Dance Center, 1830 - 17th St. Info: 415-252-9000



WOOD (formerly The Woodyz) play faux '70s metal and anthem rock at the Cherry Bar. See Thursday.

## Sun 27

### Academy of Friends Gala @ Fort Mason Center

25th Annual Academy of Friends Gala... Nuit d'argent. Come and walk the red carpet at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center for the biggest Academy Awards night party outside of Hollywood. Academy of Friends invites you to be a part of its 25th Anniversary Gala, the Bay Area's most fabulous fundraiser. Sample the best food and wine in the Bay Area with more than 2,500 supporters and volunteers at this "Night of Silver" — The Gala is presented by Levi Strauss Foundation, Mercedes-Benz, Universal McCann and Lovejoy (creative). DJs Miguel Migs and Julius Papp spin the night away after the Awards. Attire: Black-Tie/Festive Sun., Feb. 27, 5pm-Midnight at Fort Mason Festival Pavilion. Gala Ticket \$157.00 (\$150 + \$7 service fee). RSVP by Fri., Feb. 25 to eloeffler@academyoffriends.org

**Jan Wahl's Night at the Oscars @ Pan Pacific Hotel**  
Joan Wahl hosts The Oscars Presentation with fun commentary and a fabulous four-course dinner. A benefit for Students Rising Above. 4:30-5:45pm hosted cocktail reception; 6-10pm Oscars Presentation. 500 Post Street at Mason.

### Kevin Dowling's Academy Awards Party

Join Hayward Council Member Kevin Dowling at his 8th Annual Academy Awards Party. Pasta feed by Hayward Firefighters Local 1909; beef by Buffalo Bill's Brewery. \$25 Speaking Role (one person); \$50 co-stars (two people); \$125 entourage (five people); \$25 Directors Table (10 people). 5-9pm, Hill and Valley Club, 1808 B St., Hayward. Info: Barbara Sacks at 510-783-8176.

### Divas Sundays @ The Café

Community icon Tita Aida hosts Divas Sundays at the Café, presented with the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center. It's a drag/transgender revue featuring some of the best gender illusionists/showgirls in the Bay Area. Tita promises much fun and excitement, with special guests with talent and a flair for pure lip-synch entertainment. Now every other Sunday. DJ Matthew Baker keeps the vibe going. Shows at 10:30 & 11:30pm. The Café, Market & Castro sts. Info: 415-292-3420, ext. 348.

### T-BAG @ Underground SF

SF's gay scene lets its hair down and kicks up its heels as Underground SF presents T-BAG, the monthly T-Dance with a twist. Last month, T-BAG debuted to a fab crowd of nightlife glitterati, from old school queens to see and be seen. Disco dance to the sounds of DJs Marcelino (My Place; Loveworks), Dirty Dianna (Loveworks) and Dick Vivian (Rooky records). T-BAG drink specials and the sexy T-BAG dancers. Free Deep Crate Mix CD to first 25 people. \$5 cover; free b4 7pm. 21+ w/ID. Every 4th Sun. from 5pm-midnight at Underground SF, 424 Haight St., bwn Webster/Fillmore.

### SF Hiking Club

**@ Purisima Creek Redwoods**  
Join other outdoors lovers for a climb through redwoods to a ridge with ocean views before descending to a fern-filled canyon. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with a 1,300-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: www.sfhiking.com

### Persian Classical Music @ Zellerbach Hall

Cal Performances presents "The Masters of Persian Classical Music." Four of Iran's finest musical virtuosos showcase the rich heritage of Persian classical music as well as ancient Sufi and contemporary poetry. The Grammy-nominated ensemble features superstar singer Mohammed Reza Shajarian;

an; kamancheh (spiked fiddle) virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor; tar (plucked lute) at setar (Iranian sitar) master Hossein Alizadeh, and Shajarian's son, Homayoun on the tombak (hand drum). \$24, \$36 & \$48. Sun., Feb. 27 at 7pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus. Tix: 510-642-9988.

## Mon 28

### Party Daze @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's YouthAware Educational Theatre Program presents Party Daze, a one-man play written by award winning Canadian playwright Ed Roy. Party Daze stars SF actor John Atwood and is directed by Andrew Nance. \$7 students; \$10 adults; \$5 per person for groups of ten or more. Feb. 28-March 10, Mon.-Thu. at 10am & 11:30am. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. at Market St. Tix/info: 415-861-4914, x 109; email youthaware@nctcsf.org

### raw & uncut

#### @ Jon Sims Center

raw & uncut — Two Evenings of Dance Performance featuring: Jess Curtis/Gravity, DOUBLE VISION, Right Brain PerformanceLab, Abigail Hosin Dance Company, Erin Parsley, Leonore Deaton, Dishwater Deviants, NATYA, Ethereal Arts, Rosie Radiator, Freestyle Dance Crew (March 4 only) and Dance Elixir (March 5 only). Curated by Joe Landini. \$10-15 (sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds). Jan. 28 & 29 at 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (between 11th St & So. Van Ness). Reservations and Information: (415) 554-0402; www.jonsimscntr.org

### Miss Kitty Galore/Mick Gael @ Modern Times Bookstore

The Perpetual Motion Roadshow is back in town! Canadian queerpunk teen author Kristyn Dunnion aka Miss Kitty Galore reads from her latest novel, MOSH PITT. Badboy balladeer Mick Gael performs songs and readings from his forthcoming novel, The Sorrows Of Alexis Cooper. Music by groovy Canadian songstress Snoowy, and from local punkdyke heartbreaker Sara Shortt. The show is all ages and pay what you can. Books and CDs will be for sale. Meet the artists, then take them for breakfast! Mon., Feb. 28, 7pm at Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246.

## Tue 1

### When Hate Happens Here

#### @ Main Library

Special screening: *Not in Our Town* Northern California: *When Hate Happens Here*, a documentary examining the negative effects of intolerance. It explores five stories of communities in Northern California that have found creative and effective ways to fight hate. The SF Public Library's Reversing Vandalism exhibition is one of the featured stories. A discussion moderated by KOED's Belva Davis follows. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium. Info: Public Affairs, 415-557-4277; www.sfpd.org

### Works In Progress

#### @ Montclair Women's Cultural Center, Oakland

"Works In Progress" Women's Open Mic. You've been missing some amazing poetry, music and theater pieces if you haven't been to "Works In Progress" hosted by poet/writer Linda Zeiser and held every first Tuesday at the Montclair Center. \$5 admission (for performers & audience alike); light refreshments included. 7:30-9:45pm. Sign up bwn 7-7:30pm for 5-8 min. slots before a friendly, supportive female audience. Info/early sign-up: Linda at 510-276-0379.

### Scott Amendola Band

#### @ Intersection

Jazz At Intersection Spring 2005 Series

presents Resident Composer Scott Amendola Band. Having performed with a dizzying number of musicians, including John Zorn, Charlie Hunter, Nels Cline, Michael Franti, Nina Hagen and Spencer Day, Amendola's inspiration stems from jazz, blues, African music, spirituals, rock and the avant garde. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. Tix: 415-626-3311; theintersection.org

## Wed 2

### 'Faggot' @ Daddy's

First Wednesdays is "Faggot" night at Daddy's: "Get out those kneecaps, finish up your antibiotics and come back to the center of the gay universe for some cruising, boozing and causing trouble." Free. 9pm-2am Wed., March 2 at Daddy's, 440 Castro. Info: 415-621-8732.

## Thu 3

### WOOD @ Cherry Bar

The Woodyz, SF's premier drag king band, has been busy transforming themselves into a hard rockin' hard drinkin', '70s metal and anthem rock band. Now calling themselves WOOD, these faux rocker-gods will smoke your genderbent soul with testosterone-laden nuggets like "Breaking the Law," "Hair of the Dog" and "Won't Get Fooled Again." WOOD debuts Thursday, March 3 at the Cherry Bar at 10pm with psychedelic posters The Whoa Nellies opening at 8:30pm. The Diamond Daggers Burlesque at 9:30pm, and The Ethel Merman Experience (featured in the SF Independent Film Fest hit, 24 hours on Craig's List) rounding out the bill at 11pm. Cherry Bar & Lounge, 917 Folsom at 5th.

### Whole Lesbian Sex Book @ Books, Inc.

Join Felice Newman, author of *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book*, in a special event, "Lesbian Sex: Keeping It Hot for the Long Haul." An evening for lesbian and bisexual women. Mar. 3 at 7:30pm. Books, Inc., 2275 Market St. Info: 415-864-6777.

### Albert Camus' *The Just*

#### @ Ashby Stage, Berkeley

Opening night: Shotgun Players present *The Just* by Albert Camus, translated by Tom Hoover, directed by Patrick Dooley. In a small apt. overlooking a street where the Grand Duke will pass on his way to the theater, a group of grim revolutionaries wait to end his life in the name of justice. In a severe and passionate examination of a factual assassination during the 1905 Russian Revolution, Camus dramatizes the minds of men and women more than willing to die for their cause. He finds unexpected nobility and chilling detachment in the behavior of these desperate seekers after justice. Previews: Mar. 1 & 2. Opens Mar. 3. Pay-What-You-Can thru Mar. 6. \$10-\$30 Mar. 10-Apr. 10. 8pm. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. Info: 510-841-6500; www.shotgunplayers.org

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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# Speedo feeding frenzy

## Aussie ass and packing pistol Down Under

by John F. Karr

Like several other major companies that are repping an import line, Raging Stallion has been presenting movies by the Australian company Pistol Media. These feature athletic, buff 'n' butch 30somethings, and are nicely made, though a little bland. Perhaps that's why Raging Stallion exported stars Carlos Morales and Joshua Adams to be matched up with two equally surcharged Ozies, in the outdoors-around-Sydney fuckfest *Going Deep Down Under*. It cocks Pistol up to Raging Stallion heat.

Morales makes it with Adams in the first scene, and the two local boys work him over pungently in the last. Morales is looking particularly meaty, so round, so firm, and fully packed. In-between these two scenes, Adams tops Karl Rawiri, and is in turn topped by Cannon Lee. Both these dudes are pretty impressive. Cannon's a Humvee kind of guy, with steel-plate pecs, lavish biceps that are lavishly tattooed, a military buzz-cut that matches his rough hand-someness, and a fat cock that's always in attack mode. Rawiri may be more svelte, but he's just as solid, with a rugged attitude, a shaved crotch, and a steely boner that doesn't flag even as Adams relentlessly shafts him. Adams gets it as aggressively as he gives it, and his bout with Cannon is high-powered. Performing under brilliantly sunny skies and sailing upon tropically clear ocean waters, the boys parade bulging Speedos, and are at their energized best. Fuckbunnies, all of 'em.

The film's four meaty scenes are preceded by an opening half-hour that'll have you asking, "Where's the porn?" The credits, in cumming-attraction mode, cannibalize the movie for eight minutes — surely unnecessary for a movie with only four performers. But don't get revved up. There's a screeching halt for the subsequent, non-sexual interviews with Josh and Carlos. Are we fascinated to hear that Josh

thought the show at the Sleaze Ball was fun, or that Carlos had a good time? The ball's entertainers indulge in some serious make-out and even go-go rimming during some party footage, but we're marking time here. After nearly 20 minutes, we're taken to a private sex club where Josh and Carlos can do an X-rated act. And boy, it's double XX!

Highly erotic foreplay and stripping leads to some JO cock display. But it's irritatingly interrupted by more interview footage ("That was hot," Carlos says) before the boys share some sensational but all-too-short dildo duetting, ending with them bashing their butts together from opposite ends of a double-headed toy. It's great, for five brief moments. But then it's back to the interviews and, good lord, five minutes of a snorkeling expedition! Snorkeling? I can't masturbate to pictures of the coral reef! When I wanna see tropical fish, I'll go the IMAX. All this stuff really belongs

in an Additional Content section. Oh missy, aren't we glad for the remote's chaptering button that can whisk us to the 30-minute mark, where Carlos and Josh have their hot-blooded fuck on a beautiful beach.

I'm glad I got all that off my chest. But really, what's to complain? There's plenty of butch fucking in *Going Deep Down Under*.

### Pump it up

*Party in the Rear* is a fuckfest of a more ferocious order. Its cast of eight encompasses one PA, four forekins, five ethnic guys (Hispanic, French and one self-identified "melting pot"), and three super-sleazy oral cum-shots. The PA is on exotic Cory Koons, who's ethnic along with Taurus, Mario Cruz, Rick Gonzales and handsome, pumped-up star Ivan Andros. The astoundingly voracious cum-gobbler is Michael Brandon, whose ravenous behavior sets the movie's tone.

Brandon and his Monster cock are in nearly every scene of the movie, which he co-directed with Chris Ward. He explains his artistic credo in an interesting "Behind



Carlos Morales and Cannon Lee



the Scenes" segment. His movies have no foreplay, fucking that's aggressive to the point of brutality, and tops switching out to bottom. That's exactly what Brandon delivers, almost to the point of viewer exhaustion, as he appears with a most receptive Ivan Andros, as well as Sean Storm, whose new facial hair lends him maturity and strength, and most especially with Joshua Adams, in one of his better appearances. Adams and Brandon make theirs a gladiatorial bout of extreme giving and getting.

Brandon wields his rigid, foot-long bone with a technique that's hair-raisingly impressive: ruthless jackrabbit pumping, sudden withdrawals and sharp, eviscerating

plunges. God, does he churn up a guy's insides. And talks dirty? His mouth may be mean as shit, but it's politically correct — for the most part. He calls his partners Bottomboy and Cockwhore, and thankfully foregoes ManPussy, Pussyboy and all other pussy variants. But right at the end he disappointingly calls Ivan Andros his bitch. Andros looks and performs magnificently, and deserves a more appreciative endearment and/or epithet. Still, Brandon is an alarmingly exciting sexualist. "Holy shit!" he screams as he wrenches forth yet another of his agonizing orgasms. And that's exactly my reaction watching him fuck. He promises to Wow! ya in *Party in the Rear*, and he does. [www.RagingStallion.com](http://www.RagingStallion.com) ▼

### Karnal Knowledge

### Oscar gala

Arts cover

signers, who include Marc Mel, Sheldon Sloan, Robert Fung, Robert Fountain, Dalton Fine, Randy Stevens, John Murray and Michael Morales.

"You never want to restrict

### Gala information

**25th Annual Academy of Friends Gala**  
Sunday, February 27, 2005

Fort Mason Center Festival Pavilion, San Francisco

5 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Food and wine tasting, silent auction, and Oscar show

9:30 p.m. to Midnight:  
DJ Dance

Individual Tickets: \$150

Info: [www.academyof-friends.org](http://www.academyof-friends.org) or call (415) 995-9890.

their creativity, and the talent, funds and resources that they bring to their designs are really amazing," says Solem, who also credits Event Producers Winslow & Associates with the Gala's annual success.

Last year's event overshot its fundraising goal by \$50k, raising \$450k for the beneficiary organizations. As Beneficiary Chair, Solem oversaw the selection of organizations that will benefit from this year's gala.

"Thirty-six agencies applied, and this year we decided to bump up our efforts and fund 14 instead of our usual 12 beneficiaries," says Solem. "The whole core of the event is that it truly gives back to the community to generate funds, help and medicine for people living with HIV/AIDS here in the Bay Area."

### Send in the gown

Fitting right in with the evening's silver décor will be "Bionic Woman" and humanitarian activist Lindsay Wagner, who

will appear at the Gala wearing the famed Hollywood Graffiti Gown.

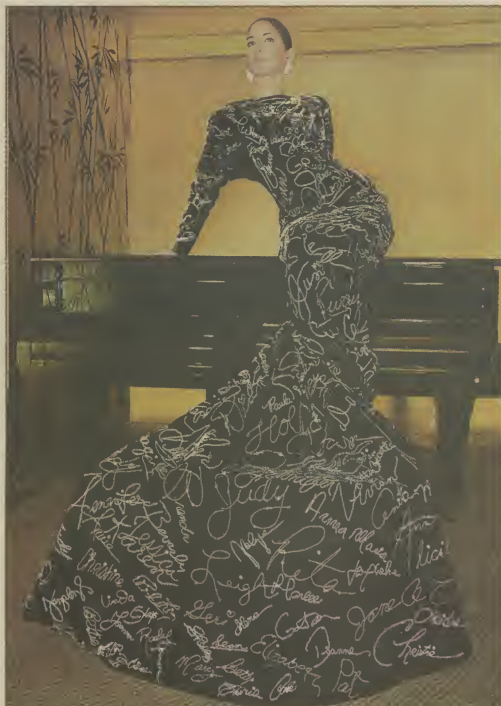
Designed by Jerry Skeels and Randy McLaughlin of Jeran Design, the black gown is covered with the beaded and crystal-encrusted signatures of more than 350 famous women, including Judy Garland, Elizabeth Taylor, Katharine Hepburn, Mother Teresa, Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, Jane Fonda, Barbra Streisand, Oscar front-runner Hillary Swank, and many more.

Part of the 25-year-long global *Fighting AIDS with Fashion* project, the gown will ultimately be auctioned off to raise money for the battle against HIV/AIDS, with proceeds to support the organizations that hosted the gown during

its tour, including the Academy of Friends.

In addition to being a grand party, the Academy of Friends Gala has truly solved the problem of what to do during those innumerable commercial breaks during the Oscars. Guests can mingle, sample wines from 40 wineries, nosh on gourmet treats from 40 Bay Area restaurants, and bid on silent-auction items throughout the evening (and the Sound Editing Awards).

Rather than sitting through the post-Oscar Barbara Walters special (because you're too shell-shocked to change the channel), Academy of Friends revelers will be treated to a live post-show performance and dancing 'til Midnight to the sounds of DJ Miguel Migs. All that, and a gift bag, too. ▼



Bionic Woman Lindsay Wagner will wear the Hollywood Graffiti Gown.

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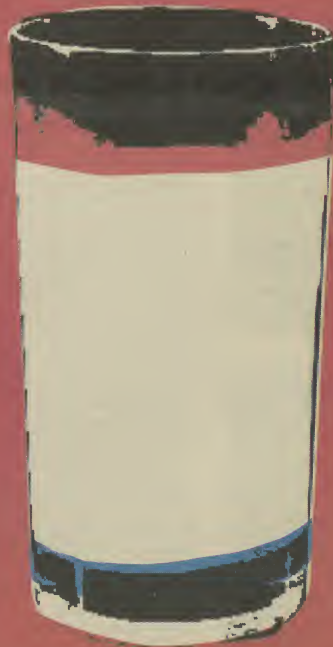
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Lower Lounge Screen 4 movies change Wed  
Upper Lounge Screen 3 movies change Fri

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# The museum is ours!

## Leather Archives & Museum fully funded

by Mister Marcus

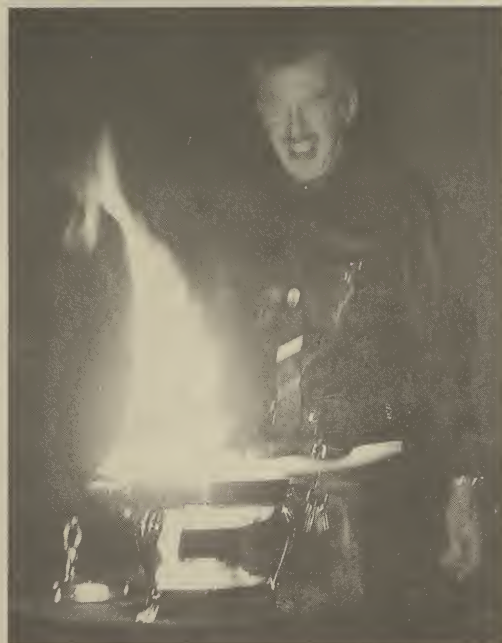
It was one of those exhilarating moments when the efforts of people all around the country, raising money in the most outrageous ways, helped to realize a community dream. Leather men and women from around the nation and the world helped to pay the balloon payment that was due in August 2004 to make the Leather Archives & Museum (LA&M) ours and ours alone.

Some of the fundraisers were so outrageous that even friends of gays would blush in wonderment and amazement. Most were dignified affairs with respectable people. You all came through and thank you for that!

It took founder Chuck Renslow only three minutes to issue a brief statement of thanks to all who helped and then he made the call for the mortgage papers from the LA&M safe to be brought to the stage. There stood a gleaming chafing dish set on a pedestal and he set the document on fire with a flick of his Bic. The almost 500 people in attendance (some in the theatre itself and many more in the basement watching on closed circuit TV screen) roared with approval. It was the crowning moment of an achievement many thought impossible.

Jon Krongaard, the VP of the LA&M, injected a lot of levity into the proceedings as various board members spoke of the projects in progress. Awards were given to several people who had gone above and beyond to contribute various talents, funds, hard work, blood, sweat and tears. The board members chipped in to give a gift to Rick Storer and his lover an all-expense paid trip to a destination of their choice.

So yes, the museum is now ours, but any worthy institution cannot survive without maintenance, so a not-so-desperate fund drive will remain in effect to pay the maintenance, lighting, heating and other expenses involved with any major museum. The LA&M itself has a sparkling new library, tasteful displays of photos, books, memorabilia, patches, run pins, bar anniversary pins and a myriad of other items that attest to the memorable artifacts of the Leather Nation. Just one visit will make you flush with memories of days gone by, events you attended or missed and photographs of icons you've always read about but never really saw in person. It's a beautiful space and I urge you to



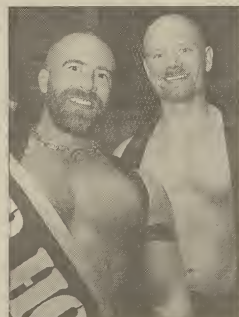
A stirring moment in leather history came as founder Chuck Renslow burned the paid-off mortgage of the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago last Sunday, February 20.

support and visit the museum at every opportunity. There are countless people to thank for this presence, too many to list here, but know that every nickel, dime, dollar you contributed, or that event you staged went to preserve the brilliant pastiche of leather-oriented history you probably attended, produced or helped to be successful. And yes, there were a few tears shed during that moment when Mr. Renslow burned that mortgage. Donations made in the name(s) of those no longer with us.

There's a very popular bookstore in San Francisco called "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place". That's what our museum is. Go visit your past and the deeds of your predecessors in the wonderful world of leather.

### Sashes galore from Philly to London

Six more titleholder names were added to the burgeoning list over the past weekend. There's a new Mr. CellBlock Leather, George Brown; a new Mr. Hoist London Leather, Richard Soulsby; a new Mr. Philadelphia Leather, Bill Hawk; and a new Ms. Philadelphia Leather, Dawn Marie, the very close friend of Nick Dyanik one of my favorite



Meet Richard Soulsby, Mr. Hoist Leather 2005 (Left) with former Mr. Hoist John Pandal and IML 2003. Mr. Soulsby won over 15 other contestants to win the title and will compete at IML 2005 in Chicago in May.

Philadelphia people.

Six men competed for the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest: Joseph Sarlo, Sean Garcia, Eric Ocasio, Dontay Thrasher, Russ Hilgert and Charles E. Brown, Jr. As a member of the judging panel (and all the other judges will agree), this was one of the most encouraging adventures, contestant-wise, that I have seen in a long time. Each competitor was sterling silver, and

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, February 24-27

South Plains Leather Fest in Dallas, Texas with Mr. and Ms. So. Plains Leather and International Mater & Slave contests. I'll be there judging so you'll be the first to know the results.

### Thursday, February 24

Bare Chest Calendar Contest at 2200 tonight at the Powerhouse Bar. Enter. Win. Become a fundraiser with little effort.

### Friday, February 25

Mr. Ringold Alley Leather contest in San Diego at the Hole at 2000. Winner advances to Mr. San Diego Leather competition. Also, The 15 Associa-

tion 15th Anniversary Dinner at the Pan Pacific Hotel, with reception at 1800, dinner at 2000.

### Saturday, February 26

Nominations for the Golden Dildeaux Awards (April 16) begin today with nomination forms at the Eagle, Powerhouse, Marlena's Daddy's, the Edge and Mr. Lee-Ona's. Also the 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. For invite, call 673-0452 or visit: [www.the15association.com](http://www.the15association.com).

### Thursday, March 3

Another bare chest calendar contest at the Powerhouse around 2200. Become volunteer in a fun project.

## SOCIETY

# The royal family

## Report from the Imperial Coronation

by Donna Sachet

San Francisco was flooded with dignitaries, and our calendar was filled with engagements last weekend as we celebrated Imperial Coronation and the 40th Anniversary of the International Court System. It all began on Thursday night with a private reception at the Blue Muse for the San Francisco Emperors and Empresses with Jose, Empress I, the Widow Norton. It truly was a historic gathering, particularly with the attendance of Emperor II Russ, Empress V Willis, and Empress VIII Maxine, all of whom reigned over 30 years ago, but looked remarkably spry and convivial.

The next night, Marlena's Bar hosted a reception honoring the anniversary monarchs — that is, those who are celebrating five, 10, 15, or more years since their reigns. On stage were Empress V Willis, Emperor XVIII Simeon, Empress XXV Marlena, Emperor XXVIII John Carillo, Empress XXXV Susie Wong, Emperor XXIII Brian Benamati, and myself. We went from there to the host hotel for visiting dignitaries, the Sir Francis Drake, where a lively show ensued. The Court of Hawaii overwhelmed the audience with a well-rehearsed production number encompassing traditional Hawaiian dance.

All these events were merely in preparation for Imperial Coronation at the Gift Center on Saturday night. Reigning Emperor Fernando and Empress China Silk coordinated a beautiful evening, full of entertainment, presentations



New Empress of San Francisco Tiger Lily and Emperor John-Richard.

and self-produced currency. This year, even after a lengthy coronation the night before and dismal weather on Sunday, a dedicated band of court members and history buffs followed Jose's trek and paid their respects at the grave of our symbolic ancestor. The lengthy but often hilarious proceedings included a splendid performance by the Gay Freedom Band led by Jadine Louie, a harrowing knife-and-baton twirler, stirring remarks from Reverend Don Fox of the Night Ministry, and an extraordinary dog act. Many of the attendees will be musing about this unique event for years to come.

Although it will miss my deadline, the final event of the weekend was the 40th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday night. Those with the stamina to keep going were rewarded with an elegant party with a ceremonial procession of the SF Monarchs, formal recognition from State and local officials, and delightful music from Gail Wilson and City Swing. The marathon weekend was scheduled to end with spirited dancing and a renewed pride in our shared heritage. ▼

### Grave concerns

The one truly unique aspect of a San Francisco Imperial Coronation weekend is the annual pilgrimage to Emperor Joshua Norton's grave in Colma. Jose Sarria claims to be the widow of Joshua Norton, the eccentric personality of the last century and self-proclaimed Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico, who amused SF with his whimsical costumes, lofty proclamations,

it was over that hunky, hunky Richard Soulsby will make the trek to Chicago next May to compete at IML 2005.

Hardly any details were forwarded about the Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather competition, but know that Dawn Marie is Ms. Philadelphia Leather and Bill Hawk is Mr. Philadelphia Leather. All the above winners advance to the next higher level of competition.

No word has come yet from the Black & Tan Uniform Club about who won their Mr. Regiment Leather contest in Los Angeles, and I was unable to attend the Mr./Ms. Olympus Leather contest in Chicago due to prior commitments. I missed the Mr. Saliva contest as well.

### Motorcycle Awards

In San Francisco, the Inter-Club Fund's Motorcycle Awards took place on Saturday night and

more people were recognized for their efforts. The list is long but some of the main winners were: Man and Woman of the Year: Dirk Burns and Ms. Vick Germany. Lifetime Achievement: Karl Schuck of Alameda. Biker of the Year for both North & South California: Eric Giffand. Best Run of the Year South: Satyr's MC and Best Run of the Year North: Leather/Levi Weekend.

Best SF Leather Contest: Mr. SF Leather; Best Fundraiser: Phoenix Uniform Club for the Military Ball;

The Pantheon of Leather Awards list is long but you can read the winners on [www.the-leatherjournal.com](http://www.the-leatherjournal.com).

This column will no longer appear on [www.leatherPage.com](http://www.leatherPage.com) but it will be on the BAR's website ([www.ebar.com](http://www.ebar.com)) sometime in March. You will all know when the BAR's website becomes a reality. ▼



### On The Town

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

all were "players" as well. It was one of the most difficult judging duties I've had in a long time.

When the hoopla was over, Charles Brown emerged the winner, with Eric Ocasio the 1st runner-up and Russ Hilgert the 2nd runner-up. The CellBlock really knows how to throw a contest!

In London, a whopping 16 men competed for the Mr. Hoist Leather 2005 contest at one of Europe's premier leather bars in South London. The contest began at midnight on Saturday night and ended around 1:30AM on Sunday morning. IML 2003 John Pental MC'd the event and stated "No national anthems, no speeches, no interviews and no changes of clothing". Audience ballots all ways choose the winner and when

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# The karmic-cycle diaries

by Victoria A. Brownworth

There we were, last column, lamenting the dearth of queer characters on the tube and then, presto chango, every third character now is a lesbian or bi-curious. Lesbians are, apparently, the idea *du jour*. Are we powerful or what?

Last week we saw an amazing kiss between Bianca and Maggie on *All My Children*. Nothing like the restrained and thus harmless kisses between Bianca and Lena. In this kiss, Bianca, whom we have always known to be a butch item beneath her casually femme exterior, took Maggie's face in her hands and kissed her. Those lovely Victorian lips of Eden Riegel's enveloping Elizabeth Hendrickson's. It was just like any other soap kiss, passionate and R-rated, only it was two women. Maggie, despite her anger with Bianca, totally gave in to the kiss. Just like real life (or *The L Word*) Magic.

But wait! The very same night of the afternoon we were watching Bianca and Maggie kissing, Marissa and Alex were kissing on the beach on *The O.C.* And an hour later, the entire episode of

*ER* was devoted to Kerri Weaver (Laura Innes), *ER*'s lesbian character, and her meeting with her biological mother, a born-again Christian to whom she showed a photo of her dead lover and their son.

Then, a few days later, *Law & Order: SVU* had a lesbian moment, and *Law & Order* had a woman on trial who had a lesbian as well as male lover.

Then, over on *Wife Swap*, our current favorite reality show, a Republican, fundamentalist Christian,

Texan family was switching with a liberal, lesbian house-

hold. Talk about bold! Especially because the martinet Republican mother and the lesbian mom really got into it over politics and "lifestyle," and nothing was done to soften the Republican mom's virulently homophobic attitudes. It was a very good episode of a show that is always enlightening about how families in America live.

Is it something in the water? If it were all one network, we might think so. But it's Fox, ABC and NBC. Lesbomania!

## Soap suds

Now, we really didn't need any more guilty pleasures to watch



All My Children star Eden Riegel (left) with Susan Lucci in Hollywood.

when we should be reading or having a life, and we have resisted succumbing to regular viewing of *The OC* for a full season. But now, thanks to Marissa and Alex, we are caught up in the prime-time soap that was an early addiction for many who missed *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*.

Mischa Barton (Marissa) has been down the bi-curious route before in a Canadian film we loved a few years back called *Lost and Delirious*, so it's not new territory for her. But the development of Marissa's character into one who will try anything once has been a realistic evolution on the program.

Of course, Marissa's going to try Alex more than once. They kissed on Valentine's Day, and she has already revealed the affair to her best friend Summer, who was seeing Alex's ex, Seth and... like we said, prime time soap. Loving it.

Like when Marissa told Summer about Alex, and Summer hugged her then asked, "You're not getting turned on by this, are you?" Or when Marissa, fresh from her night on the beach with Alex, turns up early to see her and finds Alex's house full of *L Word*-style couples and takes flight. Or when Marissa comes back later and asks to meet the friends, making Alex's face light up.

Back on AMC, Eden Riegel is leaving at the end of February, taking Bianca's character with her. Things are heating up between Bianca and Maggie, and Maggie's fiancé Jonathan is turning out to be a guy with serious problems. Since our sources at ABC tell us Hendrickson is also leaving, we

think Bianca and Maggie just might leave together. Stay tuned.

Lesbians might be everywhere, but gay men are apparently only in the White House — oh, and on *The Simpsons*. In the ever-more astounding hypocrisy of the Bush Administration, some of you may have missed the story about Jim Guckert, a former gay escort who appeared some months back as a "reporter" for an instantly-created right-wing news service, Talon, covering the White House. Guckert, who received press credentials under a fake name, Jeff Gannon, appears to have been, like Armstrong Williams and Maggie Gallagher, a journalistic shill for the Bush Administration. Guckert, who had access to an amazing amount of insider info without

actually being a journalist, was in the press pool specifically to ask questions that would give the White House an opportunity to push their anti-gay agenda, as well as deflect attention from real questions by genuine reporters.

It doesn't matter if Gannon/Guckert is or isn't gay, he's facilitating the anti-gay agenda of this Administration, as well as keeping real reporters from asking serious questions about the dangerous things this Administration is doing. Gannon/Guckert was also put in play to be called on by the President to ask benign questions that Bush could answer without tying up his tongue.

What's seriously astonishing is that this alleged gay hooker got the Bernard Kerik treatment, which is to say, no vetting. It would seem to us that in a Patriot Act-driven Administration in a post-9/11 world, checking out who is sitting in the White House press corps just might be good policy. Even if that person is a shill. Of course, now the White House has been hoisted on its own petard, since the porn-site material of Gannon is everywhere. But the damage Guckert did with his gay-baiting questions can't be underestimated. Meanwhile, back at the unreality ranch of the Bush White House, the Bush team has ordered the words "gay," "lesbian," bisexual and "transgendered" be removed from the program of a federally-funded conference on suicide prevention.

next page ►

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## Days/Being Wild

◀ page 37

cheap cologne. The whiff of homo pheromones are definitely in the air, especially in a scene late in the film where Tide picks the passed-out drunk Yuddy up off a Philippine street after he's been rolled by a female prostitute.

Yuddy's desires, apart from himself, are mostly directed towards a wealthy, aging ex-hooker who is the closest thing to a mother he's ever known. Tita Munoz milks the overtly incestuous dimensions of her relationship with her "son," at one point offering him the chance to ride off with her to America, on the tab of an older gentleman admirer. Yuddy, whose violent streak jumps out of the closet when he brutally assaults a gigolo he suspects of robbing his stepmom, demands that he be told the identity and whereabouts of his birth-mother. One fears that this knowledge will command a dear price.

*Days of Being Wild* evokes a nostalgia for those golden moments when the promise of youth had yet to be frittered away, opening on the eve of the '60s. Yuddy's seduction line to the emotionally withdrawn bartender Su Lizhen (Maggie Cheung) is that they are already "one-minute friends," one minute before three o'clock, April 16, 1960. The '60s are remembered as one long commercial for the lovely decadence of Western consumer products: the six-and-one-half-ounce glass bottles of Coke; Yuddy's Don Juarmobile, a sleek, swift Mercedes; and the phallic-like cigarettes.

*Days of Being Wild*'s only truly happy moments occur when Yuddy is allowed to completely give in to his narcissism: combing his slick-black hair in the mirror, reveling in a post-coital smoke, or best yet, dancing by himself in his

underwear. Yuddy's ambivalent feelings towards the rest of humankind are reflected in a half-joking wrestling bout with a rebellious dance-hall girl, Mimi (Carina Lau). Pinning her down in a hallway window, Yuddy covers her nostrils with his thumbs, as he slyly wonders, "How long can you keep from breathing?" Leslie Cheung is an incendiary screen presence: few actors can get as much mileage from lying half-dressed in a messy bed drenched in the afterglow of sex.

The film feels a little unfinished. Wong Kar-wai confesses that budgetary restraints prevented him from completing his original scheme for the film. The director makes up for his poverty of resources by astutely juggling multiple-story lines and character points of view, effectively damping down our emotional expectations with a muted color palette — red, signifying great happiness in the Chinese culture, is ruthlessly banished, with the exception of the opening shots of the Coke machine — the seductive claustrophobia of rainy Hong Kong streets, and the insidious use of cheap Hawaiian guitar music projected over jungle foliage. All throughout, clocks loudly tick, as if the characters (all of whom give off the feeling of wild birds trapped in gilded cages) were personally counting down the remaining 37 years of British rule in Hong Kong.

You may get more of a jolt from the sex-crazed lovers of *Happy Together*, and feel more poignantly in *The Mood For Love*'s assertion that love is impossible, but *Days of Being Wild* is where these great films got their inspiration. Wong Kar-wai's personal get-out-of-jail-free card from the Hong Kong martial-arts industry. The sad truth that we'll never have another Leslie Cheung film is offset by this early neglected treasure. He's in our dreams again. ▼

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# Splitting hairs with José

by Sweet Lips

Isn't life great! There I was, sitting in the Viking Hair Salon while Robbie was cutting my hair when a big, black stretch limo pulled up and the driver, Rick Zonie, got out and opened the door. And who should get out but Grand Empress José, just up from Palm Springs for all the Coronation activities, and looking just fabulous!

José had her hair cut by Robbie, and then Dennis Tyler and I drove her to the Sir Francis Drake, the host hotel. You must remember she is younger than I, and I still love her.

Congratulations to our new Empress and Emperor. May you both have a great reign with much fun. Sorry I missed all the Coronation activities due to my illness, but having attended for 30 years, I have a pretty good idea of what happened and what I missed. Thank you L. James and David for bringing me a great lunch at home! We had a lovely visit.

I want to thank Mason and the staff of Ginger's Trois, and of course Emperor Steve Rasher, for the fabulous party for the Portland contingent, a very successful fundraiser. Of course I got to see friends old and new. Be advised



Paul Ruehl and George Russo are now living in Buffalo, New York.

Well, Charlie at Kimo's has hired another Club Rendez-Vous employee, the popular and talented Ron Rios, who will be working on Sunday and Monday from 8 p.m. until closing, so drop by and have a libation with him.

I understand that Paul and David have some feelers out for a new Club Rendez-Vous location, and I hope they locate something soon.

The Mix Bar on 18th Street in the Castro has Marlow Watts working mornings on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. The Mix is one of the most popular bars in the Castro area.

Talk about popular bartenders! Empress Maxine is still holding court at Marlena's. Heard you looked fabulous at the Coronation!

Jerry Olsen runs the Lone Star Saloon in a really great way. They have a good staff and drinks and excellent vibes. So when you're South of Market on Harrison Street between 9th & 10th, make the Lone Star one of your stops.

Joe down at Aunt Charlie's Lounge goes all out on his theme decorations, so check them out. The place has great lighting, and the themes change all year long. ▼

## Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

Apparently, if queer kids kill themselves, it's alright by this President. Someone should send that memo to the Cheneys.

So to re-cap, as they say on ESPN: the Bush team hires a gay prostitute with no journalistic credentials, gives him high-level clearance to the White House without having the FBI check him out, has him shill for them and spew anti-gay rhetoric from the press box for all the world to view on the tube. Got that? Kind of makes the furor over the Clintons letting their pals sleep in the Lincoln bedroom seem a tad silly.

Gannon/Guckert may not be Roy Cohn reincarnated (not smart enough), but he is that particularly disturbing kind that seems to be endemic to the Republic Party: the anti-queer queer who finds power so intoxicating he's willing to do almost anything to obtain it. Remember Andrew Sullivan a few months back doing his apology for the murderers of Matthew Shepard on ABC's *Prime Time Live*? What does Mr. Gay Neo-Con have to say about Gannon/Guckert?

### 'Toon up

Meanwhile, while gay prostitutes are sitting in the White House press pool, the Right is once again getting jiggy over gays in cartoons. Bill O'Reilly got crazy earlier in the week over the continuing controversy about the lesbians and the bunny rabbit on PBS, previously reported in this column. O'Reilly, ever one for hyperbole, noted that the animated rabbit Buster visiting the children of real-life families with lesbian parents in Vermont on the PBS

show was comparable to "visiting a bigamy situation in Utah" or "an S&M thing in the East Village." Or possibly just the press corps when "Jeff Gannon" was shilling for the Prez?

As if O'Reilly's ridiculousness weren't enough, everyone on the Right is in a tizzy over *The Simpsons* taking on gay marriage on their episode last Sunday. *The Simpsons* is on Fox, the most conservative network on the tube. It's also regarded as a positive show by many conservatives because it features regular, church-going, Christian characters. And it is, might we just remind folks, a cartoon. A smart, savvy, hip cartoon, but a cartoon nevertheless. Did these folks ever hear the one about the stones and the glass house? The episode was as wonderful as ever: something for everyone to be offended by. And we're always especially happy when the Right is offended.

One of America's great actors, who made part of his career out of offending those abusing their power, died last week. Ossie Davis was a movie, theatre and TV star, a writer and an activist. He was black on TV before there were blacks on TV, and well before there were other than stereotypical blacks on TV. Davis described himself as "essentially a storyteller, and the story I want to tell is about black people. Sometimes I sing the story, sometimes I dance it, sometimes I tell tall tales about it. But I always want to share my great satisfaction at being a black man at this time in history."

Black History Month has gone relatively unremarked on the tube except on UPN and PBS, naturally. As Black History Month draws to a close, we do well to remember a man like Davis, who was so fine an actor and so decent a man.

Stay tuned. You never know what you might see on the tube. ▼

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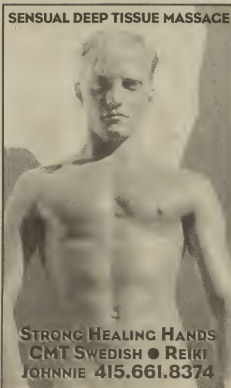
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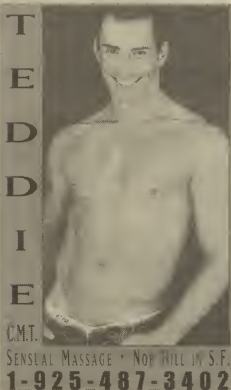
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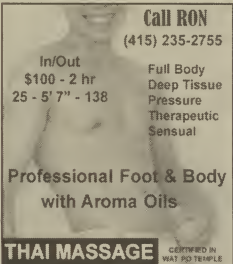


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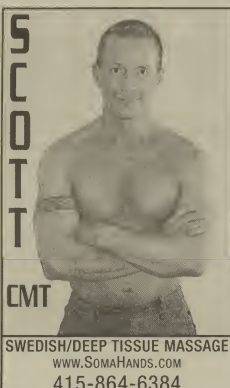
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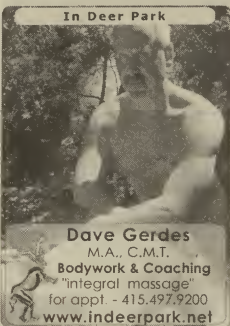
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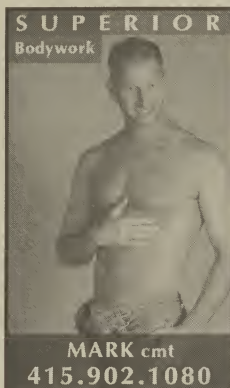
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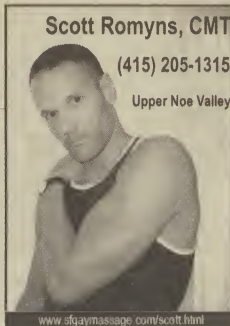
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Telephone

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State

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Number of Issues

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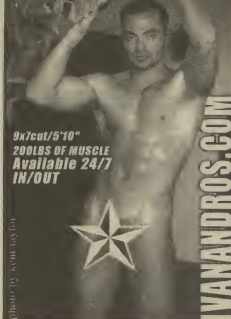


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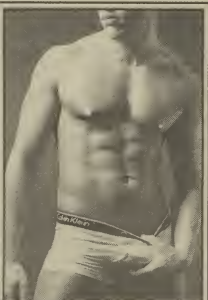
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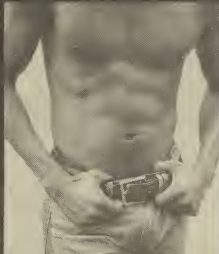
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9x7




5'11"  
190 lbs  
(SOLID)

MASCULINE  
FRIENDLY  
HONEST

SF & Bay Area SCOTT STANTON  
323.868.5726

**25 y.o. 9" THICK 6 CUT**  
PLAYING CENTERFOLD - JULY 2003  
IN SAN FRANCISCO  
FROM MIAMI



5'11" 180lbs • 44" C • 31" W  
SMOOTH • TAN • SOLO FLEX BODY  
V-RACK • WASHTIGHT ABS  
MASCULINE • STRAIGHT ACTING  
AND LOTS OF FUN!


**NICK 305.975.7618**

**EROTIC MESSAGE AND MORE...**  
5'10" • 235LBS  
CH. 52", A. 19", W.33"  
**CALL ROB**  
415-567-6015



BODYBUILDER • MUSCLE WORSHIP

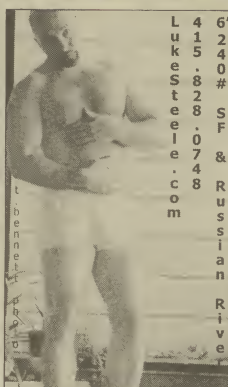
BDSM  
FF • CBT  
ETC  
5'8" • 150  
Private  
Playroom  
Beginners  
Welcome  
(415) 215-8396  
Intense • Experienced • Safe  
MasterJeff.com/escort



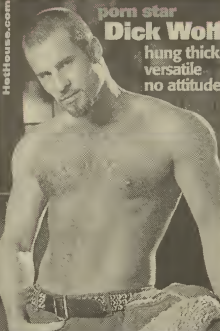
**LATINO**  
muscular  
x-line  
genuinely  
handsome  
804-2152



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**porn star**  
**Dick Wolf**  
hung thick  
versatile  
no attitude



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PARTNER AVAILABLE

**ANGEL**



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UNCUT TOP**  
Tasty Juicy - The Perfect Tool!!!  
Masculine Latin, Clean-Cut  
Athletic Build, Good Looking  
Ask For Joe 415-410-MENN 24 Hrs.



**FUN + FRIENDLY TOTAL TOP**  
Attractive 6' Br/Bl Nasty Top 4 You  
Call Matt 415-845-8042 \$100




**24 HOURS**  
BROWN HAIR 9 IN 29 IN WAIST  
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Hot + Masculine w/Buzzcut & Goatee  
Handsome 6ft. Well-Hung, Big Balls  
**SHAVED HEAD STUD**  
Cint • 415-540-5311 • In/Out • 24 Hrs.  
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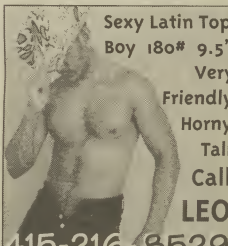


**RICK** 415-720-1075  
www.ricknsf.com

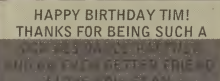


SEXY W/O ATTITUDE

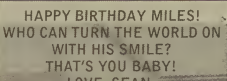
**Sexy Latin Top**  
Boy 180# 9.5"  
Very  
Friendly  
Horny  
Tall  
Call  
**LEO**  
415-216-8529



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIM!**  
THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A  
WICKED DICK. I LOVE YOU  
AND AN EVEN BETTER FRIEND  
I LOVE YOU SEAN



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MILES!**  
WHO CAN TURN THE WORLD ON  
WITH HIS SMILE?  
THAT'S YOU BABY!  
LOVE, SEAN.



**FRICTION EVENTS**  
Alan Voochres presents

**SECOND ANNIVERSARY!**

**FUSION**

CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF FUSION  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST DJ  
**JOHN LePAGE**  
THE CLASSIC SAN FRANCISCO T-DANCE!

SUNDAY  
**FEBRUARY 27**  
6PM TO MIDNIGHT  
715 HARRISON STREET  
\$20 admission \$10 before 7pm. 21+

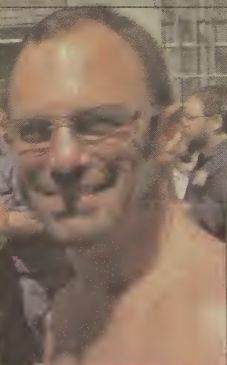
NEW DATES!  
FUSION IS MOVING TO THE  
FIRST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH!  
NEXT FUSION APRIL 3

FRICTIONEVENTS.COM



**BARE CHEST**  
CALENDAR  
2005





Tired of seeing things in black and white?  
So are we.

Now you can have your ad in full sassy

**COLOR**, that's right, **COLOR!**

Contact us for rates  
and info.

Phone:  
415.861.5019

Email:  
BARadv@aol.com

Get down with your bad ass self,  
sweet momma!

Oh Steve, you're such a pisto!!



**BAY AREA REPORTER**

## PEOPLE



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THE CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTION

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Bay Area's hottest chatline

**MrN**

**Men Meet Men Right Now!**  
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for  
**FREE**

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925-426-5588  
650-223-0200  
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Other Local #'s  
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**FREE TRIAL**  
CODE: 2160

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www.InteractiveMale.com

Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Location". Call 4 apptmt \* 626-1168

Good Head Sonoma County  
Call Days 707-823-3895

**BALLS WANTED**  
GENEROUS WM LOOKING FOR  
WM WITH HUGE BALLS THAT  
HANG VERY LOW. MR. LEWIS.  
(425) 259-0656

### MUSIC LOVER SEEKS SAME!

GWM, professional, 54, HIV-, brn hair & eyes, 5'11" av build, Loves the symphony, singing and Sunday New York Times. ISO fellow music aficionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, attractive, upbeat attitude & playful wit! San Jose or San Francisco Bay Areas preferred. Visit <http://gaymillionairesclub.com> client ad 2738 (FREE)

## WANTED!

### BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
  - Meet Ads
  - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours  
\$2.00  
976-7500

**Free**  
(415) 981-8123

SAN FRANCISCO  
**SPANK PARTY**  
2ND FRI. EACH MONTH  
PRIVATE SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE  
415.864.2766

### QUIET, THOUGHTFUL GUY WANTED FOR LTR

Attractive GWM HIV- age 59, 5'10" easy-going, educated, genuine, interested in the arts, theater, travel, and the outdoors seeks HIV-, age 30-40s, politically liberal, self-accepting, out, and happy to be gay. Seeking a quiet, thoughtful guy who leans toward the submissive side in a relationship. Visit us online today and see Ad Code 2750. (FREE to respond)  
Gaymillionairesclub.com

# BAR TALK

**1.900.226.7036** Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

**Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™** You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone! Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

### PARTING GLANCES

**Cliff's Variety - Friday 1/20 4pm**  
Me on cell phone at front door. You very cute, long black overcoat and sharp green slacks looking at daily calendars. Hope you can fit "me" in your schedule!  
☎ 71479

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Donde esta el amigo de mi alma?**  
Gay Latino, 50's, 5'10", 200#, seeks Latino soulmate, 40-70, passionate, romantic, and ready for monogamous relationship. Toma mi mano, y juntos volaremos en las alas del amor!  
☎ 71490

**Musician, Yogi, writer**  
Looking for new boyfriend - must be: funny, under 45 (I am 34), creative, kind, caring, healthy, good listener. See ya!  
☎ 71487

### Legal Resident GLM

Me: GLM early 40's H:5'7 W:155 Hu\*ly look. Versatile w/nice ass and body. HIV+ and healthy. Tattoos/piercings clean body and mind. You: GWM/GLM 30/40 yrs. H:5'5-5'10 W:150/160. Versatile flat stomach HIV+ healthy N/D  
☎ 71485

### I'm Glad I'm not Young Anymore

What? At 67 I don't feel the need to downplay my age. White hair 5'5" blue eyes seeks men of color. I'm easy to reach in Haight area only.  
☎ 71476

### Older Cigar/Pipe Smokers

LM 48, 6', 165lbs. seeking an older man who regularly smokes cigars or pipes who enjoys lots of cuddling, deep kissing & other oral pleasures. Please, no gay scene, games, S & M. All types welcome.  
☎ 71480

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

### Pose For Male Nude Photos!!

Photographers in East Bay looking for in-shape male models for nude, artistic, erotic and sensual photos. We want to put you in pictures. Call and join the fun!  
☎ 71494

### Sex Nude Beaches And Sunshine!

Masculine goodlooking GWM seeks travel partner for nude beaches and travel. Florida, Caribbean, Mexico. I'm very uninhibited and fun. Black guys a plus.  
☎ 71489

### Hobo Bear

Homeless, 30ish, uncut guy, hairy, bearded, bubble butt, 13EE, sandaled, freckled, English/Welsh. Let's have togetherness, warmth - or, show me who's boss! Freckles, hazel eyes, Brunette, wide shoulders.  
☎ 71492

### Young Hung Submissive Needs Man

Bi-6ft smooth white boy 8 1/2 hung ISO mature man or men into role play, fantasy video + internet exhibitionism, verbal, who knows?  
☎ 71483

### Rasslin Bears at IBR?

Any rasslin' bears here for IBR? Tough hairy muscled tattooed 5'8" 148# skinhead bear, gym and ring, ISO tough hairy out-of-town bears for private NHB rasslin' fights.  
☎ 71482

### Sr. GW Masc Top (Not Versatile)

ISO GW masc. submissive bottom for fun and games or more. Pls be over 40 small to x-large size ok and really good sex  
☎ 71484

### Boyish Asian

Seeking smooth masculine gym toned WM or AM to orally service and mutual play. Blond and under 40 a plus.  
☎ 71486

### FETISHES

#### Nude Wrestler

GWM, 5'8", 160 Lbs, seeking slim sized opponents for nude battle to pin or submission. Be clean and competitive.  
☎ 71495

### Naked Guys Into Golden Showers

Want to lay naked up to your balls in piss and dirty water? Meet me at the trough urinal in the back of Mack Folsom Prison on Monday nights.  
☎ 71493

### Got Gyno?

ISO a man with bit tits or nipples who enjoys having them played with. I'm a GWM, 53, 6'2", 195lbs, muscular with pumped up nipples. N/S, HIV-. Any weight ok.  
☎ 71488

### A Foreskin Freak

If you're proud of your foreskin and love having it worshiped, then I'm your guy. Me: goodlooking, cuddly & physically sensational black ex-marine.  
☎ 71478

### Muscle Butts Explored

WM, 41, gently, expertly probes bodybuilders and other athletes' taut, muscular, quivering butt cheeks. Slow, talented finger. Loud moans a plus.  
☎ 71477

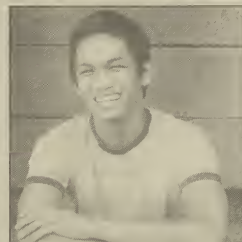
### FF Top ISO FF Bottom

I'm WM, 6'1", 174#, want slim/thin bottom w/big, hungry hole craving attention. I'm experienced, 60's, and love to work on ass-holes. You must have trim waist-line.  
☎ 71481

### OTHERS

#### Play Ball!

Established Gay Softball team looking for players. World series participant 3 of last 5 years. All are welcome!  
☎ 71491



www.stevedenhill.com

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
Couples ☐  
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO:** BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103


You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## PEOPLE

## XXX WEB

**Calling All Single Men!**



Join the nation's most exclusive matchmaking agency and meet quality, relationship-minded men who want to meet you! Visit us online today. Free memberships to exceptional men ages 21-35.

[gaymillionairesclub.com](http://gaymillionairesclub.com)

**STRICTLY SEX!!**

Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.  
Call 415-247-2000 or  
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

E18

Bare Assed Spanking.  
Experienced, Safe  
DaddyHoward 929 1185

E04-06

**ADULT JOBS OFFERED****ADULT VIDEO COMPANY SEEKS LOCATIONS**

Willing to pay top dollar for interesting, spacious locations to film our full-scale, premiere adult videos. Looking for dungeons, studios, warehouses, barns, garages, bars/night-clubs, theaters, gyms, large private homes, secluded private properties, etc. If you have a location we should see contact Lelf at Hot House Entertainment: 415-864-8910 or [lelf@hothouse.com](mailto:lelf@hothouse.com).

E10

**GAY PORN MODELS**

TREASURE ISLAND MEDIA  
Seeks fit handsome hung tops & tight hungry bottoms for shoots. Call 415-437-6696 ext 3 or send pics & stats to [models-sf@treasureislandmedia.com](mailto:models-sf@treasureislandmedia.com) to arrange an interview.

E08

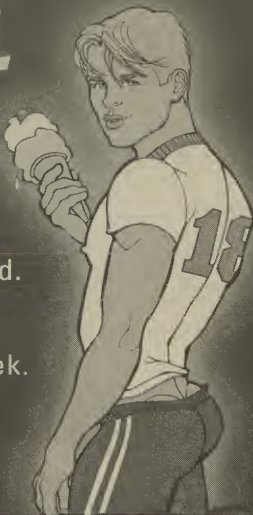
**FACTORY VIDEO**

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off+ Making \$\$\$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070.  
[www.factoryvideos.com](http://www.factoryvideos.com)

E09

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All ads  
have photos  
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Live help  
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**HUGE**

Over  
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At  
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Available in  
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Find  
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**THURSDAY  
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**DJ  
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**COME TOGETHER**

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